The Marshall County Fiscal Court met in a special called session on Monday, July 27, 2015 in the Joe Williams Fiscal Courtroom, Marshall County Courthouse, Benton, Kentucky. All duly elected Commissioners: Bob Gold, Johnny Bowlin, & Dr. Rick Cocke; County Attorney Jeff Edwards & Assistant County Attorney Jason Darnall were present. Chyrill Miller, County Judge/Executive presided.

Judge Miller called the meeting to order.

Robert Fowler, Chairman of the Marshall County Senior Citizens and Chairman of the Marshall County Advisory Commission on Ageing addressed the court. He began by saying that because of the lack of participation and a decrease in funding, the Senior Center at Calvert City was closed and the seniors went to the Benton Center. He added that of the $137,800 provided to the Senior Citizens, not all funds come through the Commission on Ageing. The meals on wheels were prepared by the Marshall County Exceptional Center beginning in 1998 thru June 30th of this year. The Exceptional Center was losing money on each meal and had to discontinue the program. The Exceptional Center was also preparing congregate meals for the clients at the Exceptional Center and congregate meals were sent to the Senior Citizens Center as well. Since that time, the Senior Citizens program has made arrangements with McCracken County Senior Citizens to prepare the meals on wheels for the 60 people in Marshall County as well as the congregate meals for the Senior Citizens Center. Mr. Fowler said it appears that it looks like the Benton Center will have to start preparing the congregate meals and meals on wheels at the Benton Center.

Judge Miller informed that the money provided by the county, city of Benton and the Purchase Area Development District is used to pay the Senior Citizens Directors for the Benton and Hardin Centers and a few incidentals. Of those funds, approximately 75% goes to Benton and 25% to Hardin.

Com. Gold gave a brief background of the division of the Senior Citizens program. In 2008, Hardin broke away from the Marshall County Senior Citizens Program, leaving the Benton and Calvert City Centers grouped together. Hardin-South Marshall Senior Citizens was incorporated during that time frame. Com. Gold, Hardin Mayor Randal Scott and Bobby Barnett are the members of the Hardin-South Marshall Senior Citizens Board. He added that Hardin pays their own bills, they keep money in their bank account and for the last three years, there were no findings on the audit and no issues of how the funds were being handled. Com. Gold said that from his understanding, Judge Mike Miller had envisioned three centers, located in the three incorporated cities so that no senior citizen would have to travel too far. Judge Chyrill Miller added that the Hardin Senior Citizens are paying for their meals out of their own pockets.
Melonie Chambers informed that she is a member of the Exceptional Center Board and the Executive Director, Diana Wall and Board Chairman Doug Dotson were present and suggested that they might be able to shed some light on this issue.

Mr. Fowler said there are 60 people receiving meals on wheels and for some of those, the drivers are the only contact they have on a daily basis with anyone. He continued by saying that he doesn’t understand how a part-time person could receive full time pay and do so without going by state law.

Com. Gold replied that the Hardin Center is open seven hours a day and the Director is paid $8.25 per hour.

Com. Cocke asked what Hardin’s hours of operation are.

Judge Miller replied that a person who works 100 hours per month is considered full time.

Mr. Fowler said he’s been told that the Hardin Center is only open 4 hours a day.

Com. Cocke said what they’re concerned about is that on April 19, 2006, Marshall County Senior Citizens, Inc. & the Advisory Commission on Ageing started restructuring and posted a notice on the Hardin Senior Citizens door that the center would close until participation increased. Instead of closing, Hardin-South Marshall incorporated and began operating on its own.

Doug Dotson said he hoped nobody harbored any ill feelings toward the Exceptional Center, it was simply a financial decision but the loss the center was taking on each meal took funding away from the programs the center needed to be offering to their clients. The kitchen equipment was purchased and donated by Joe Tom Haltom with the exception of the convection oven and a microwave, and they are in the process of getting the oven and microwave moved to the Benton Senior Citizens Center. There is a large walk-in freezer that was obtained by the Exceptional Center from the Kentucky Colonels and is no longer needed. He added that he believed the Exceptional Center Board would agree to donate the freezer to the Senior Citizens. Diana Wall will to try to get permission from the Colonels to give the freezer to the Senior Citizens.

Com. Gold said moving the location of meal preparation is still not going to solve the funding problem. Mr. Dotson said that all of the records unless those dealing with clients will be shared to show what issues they have faced in the past with funds and the meals program. He added that it appears to him that it would be best if volunteers
could cook the meals at the Benton Senior Citizens Center. Com. Cocke added that they could also raise the subsidy.

Judge Miller volunteered to check with the Calloway County Senior Citizens about the possibility of them providing meals on wheels as a backup in the future.

A motion was made by Com. Gold and seconded by Com. Cocke to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Melonie Chambers
Fiscal Court Clerk