

MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2007/5:30 P.M.

The special meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Thursday, February 1, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Donna Anderson.

Members present: Kim Rasmussen, Dennis Komulainen, Loren Tolkkinen, and Julia Kicker.

PURPOSE: Review of the GPA Nursing Home Report Card from the State.

Mayor Anderson asked to bring Clair Erickson, nursing home administrator, to the council table to discuss the survey.

Erickson started the discussion by stating he was disappointed to see the newspaper reporting of the report card and that he had written a letter to the Park Rapids newspaper. Erickson stated numerous reasons for the state report card being so low, but the main reason was that the nursing home takes the blame on the reports for any falls residents have had within the past 6 months even if the falls took place at their home prior to becoming a resident at the home.

Rasmussen questioned the MDS scores and asked Erickson if all employees were filling out the reports the same way. Erickson informed the council that he has a consultant coming tomorrow to review the reports and make sure they are understood and being done accurately. Erickson also stated that the quality of life would score better if the nursing home had more private rooms. Rasmussen then asked what improvements are being put into place to correct the report card.

Erickson informed the council that he is in the process of making cultural changes to meet the patients' desires. Erickson stated that on direct care we are not perfect, but that all citations (gigs) have been corrected. Erickson went on to say that, a person can sit and dwell on the past and not accomplish what needs to be done but that he has taken measures to correct the citations.

Council requested that in the future the information on the state report card be given to them immediately upon receiving it so that they do not have to read about it in the newspaper.

Discussion was held on bringing in a consulting firm to do an assessment of the facility. Erickson noted that someone should be brought in to strategic plan but that the city should not bring in a consulting firm to look at what we are presently doing as we are the exception to most nursing home and that most around us are operating in the red. Erickson also noted that he felt if the city hired someone for an operational study that

they would be snubbing the grant process and the person from the Area Agency on Aging from Region IV that he has been working with.

Discussion was held on the possibility of refinancing the existing nursing home bonds to save money on interest.

TOLKKINEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO LOOK INTO REFINANCING THE NURSING HOME BONDS WITH EHLERS. RASMUSSEN SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

Council directed City Clerk/Treas/Adm. to research consulting firms and obtain a ballpark figure for doing a operational assessment and return the results to the council by the March 12, 2007, council meeting. It was noted that local Minnesota firms should be looked at first to hold the cost down.

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned.