

GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Consultant to evaluate options for Genesee County nursing home

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BATAVIA — A Rochester consultant was hired Wednesday by the Genesee County Legislature in the ongoing debate over the future of the county's financially troubled nursing home.

The Center for Government Research, with extensive experience in nursing home studies, was chosen from among eight applicants to evaluate options. The study will cost \$62,000.

Legislators are concerned about the future of the facility, which has racked up losses of more than \$1 million a year.

Options include continuing with the current operation, hiring an outside operator or selling the five-story facility, which was built in 1974.

The facility's supporters include residents, family members and the 215 unionized employees of the home. They are against selling the facility, which operates on an annual budget of \$19.4 million. A decade ago, the county also invested \$10 million to upgrade the facility.

The consultant's study is expected to take six months before the Legislature makes a decision. The county nursing home complex features 160 nursing home beds, an 80-bed domiciliary unit for short-term rehabilitation and day care rooms.

The home will soon be without a director with the retirement next month of John F. Demske. Since no members of the current staff are licensed to be an administrator, a consultant will be hired on a temporary basis.

In other business, legislators:

- Approved the sale of 15 properties sold at auction for \$86,000 — nearly \$7,000 more than the tax liability that forced foreclosure. Among them was the site of a methamphetamine lab on Lewiston Road in the Town of Alabama, which was raided last November. The one-acre parcel brought \$3,000, far below its assessed value.
- Entered into a one-year contract with Eagle Systems of Buffalo for a “cost-per-copy” program with per-unit charges ranging from 1z to 6 cents. With the county generating 3.8 million copies per year, the savings in the 2010 budget is estimated at \$17,000.
- Granted 2010 funding for two organizations: Genesee-Orleans Arts Council, \$8,550, and Genesee County Chamber of Commerce, \$4,275, for its Business Education Alliance program. Both amounts are 5 percent less

than last year and in line with a new funding policy.

- Welcomed a new legislator, Bergen village Trustee Robert J. Bausch, who succeeds Charles N. Zambito in representing the towns of Elba, Byron and Bergen. Zambito, an Oakfield attorney, became county attorney this month after the resignation of John L. Rizzo.
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