

JOHN J. FOLEY SKILLED NURSING FACILITY

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A regular meeting of the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility Oversight Committee was held in the Downstairs Conference Room of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Dr. James Tomarken - Chairman/Commissioner-Dept of Health Services
Beth Reynolds - Representing Kim Brandeau-CE's Budget Office

Also In Attendance:

Legislator Kate Browning - Legislative District #3
Legislator John Kennedy - Legislative District #12
Kevin Carey - Administrator/John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility
Craig Freas - Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 10:18 A.M. *)*

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

We've made some changes inside the department and I'll be running these meetings and I'll be the direct report for Kevin for Foley going forward. What's not on the agenda, but I'm going to insert it, is a review of the minutes, if you had a chance. I found one minor correction on page 23; at the top, the first line it says that I said, "Different facilities coming here for flu shots," and it was meant different non-Foley staff that were coming. And so I would take out -- change the word "facilities" to "non-Foley staff". Otherwise, anybody else?

MR. CAREY:

I didn't have time to read it.

LEG. BROWNING:

I don't have my glasses on me, so.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay. Any other additions or corrections?

MR. CAREY:

No.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Can I have a motion to accept the minutes?

MR. CAREY:

Motion to accept the minutes.

MR. FREAS:

Second.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Second by Craig. All opposed? In favor? Abstentions?

MS. REYNOLDS:

I'll abstain since I wasn't here.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay, one abstention.

Okay, we'll go through a facility update with Kevin.

MR. CAREY:

Currently our Census is 191. We have 12 residents in the hospital. For the previous month, October, we have eleven new admits and six discharges. We're currently running at 72%; adult day-care, 47 registrants, two new admits. The average daily is 23, the average Monday to Friday is 26, and the average attendees on Saturday is ten.

HR, currently we have 219 full-time employees.

LEG. BROWNING:

Can you go back to -- you said 23, daily 26 attendees total?

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
No, 26 is Monday through Friday.

MR. CAREY:
Monday to Friday.

LEG. BROWNING:
Oh, Monday to Friday.

MR. CAREY:
The average for the whole seven days is 23.

LEG. BROWNING:
And what did you say after that?

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Saturday is 10.

MR. CAREY:
Saturday is 10, Monday to Friday is 26.

LEG. BROWNING:
Okay.

MR. CAREY:
After that, going on to HR, we currently have 219 full-time employees. We recently, the last month, hired per diems; we have three RN, Registered Nurse per diems, 10 LPN per diems and 15 Aides.

MR. FREAS:
And by per diems, you mean County temp, right?

MR. CAREY:
County temp. Well, County employees that only work 18.5 hours, I believe, a week.

MR. FREAS:
Less than 17 and a half.

MR. CAREY:
Right, no benefits.

LEG. BROWNING:
Yeah. And they're non --

MR. CAREY:
Very important to help, you know, fill the holes in the schedule.

MR. FREAS:
No, absolutely. I just wanted to be clear that that's --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
And have they replaced some contract --

MR. CAREY:

Some agency people? Yes. We also currently have 18 people out Workers Comp or Family Leave Act, that seems to be our average.

LEG. BROWNING:

Eighteen?

MR. CAREY:

Eighteen, yeah. We have currently going on four Section 75's.

LEG. BROWNING:

What's that?

MR. FREAS:

Discharge.

MR. CAREY:

Termination, move to terminate.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Four of those?

MR. CAREY:

Four of them are currently going on right now with HR.

Admissions, we actually -- we've been experimenting the last several months trying to get a good marketer. We're actually attempting right now, one of the RN's off of one of the units, 2 North, she's actually doing two days this week and next week she's going to be full time marketing for us at Stony Brook. I really think for short-term rehab or long-term, whatever we decide to do, it would really be important.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

So she's doing that two days a week?

MR. CAREY:

This week is two days a week and next week she'll be doing it full-time.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Oh, full-time. Okay.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

LEG. BROWNING:

And that's an RN doing that?

MR. CAREY:

That's an RN doing that, a Registered Nurse. Her name is Jennifer Tea.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

T --

MR. CAREY:

T-E-A, something like that.

Activities. We have the traditional Holiday Party on December 8th at 7 PM. We've also added on December 5th at 7 PM a tree lighting, we're going to decorate the trees outside the gazebo and have a small ceremony.

LEG. BROWNING:

And that's on December 8th?

MR. CAREY:

December 5th for the tree lighting at 7 PM, and December 8th at 7 PM in the main dining room will be the Holiday Party for the residents and their family.

LEG. BROWNING:

And December 5th is 7 PM?

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

Yes. The tree lighting out in the back gazebo, and December 8th, Holiday Party.

Medicaid. There's still no rates for next year from Medicaid yet, but we have heard from the association that they're reasonably sure it's going to be a wage component of the new Medicaid rate, which is actually very good for us.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Can you explain that, a wage component?

MR. CAREY:

Where if you add up all our benefits, what each employee costs us is a great deal more than the private industry.

MR. FREAS:

Right.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Oh, I see.

MR. CAREY:

The State's going to actually take that into consideration --

LEG. BROWNING:

When they do --

MR. CAREY:

-- when they do the Medicaid rate.

LEG. BROWNING:

Wow.

MR. CAREY:

I believe they're using two main components; one is regional. We're on Long Island which, like New York City, would be one of the highest rates. And then if they're going to compensate for wages, we should get a favorable rate out of that. But have they posted it? No, but that's what we've heard from the association and

from our accountants.

MR. FREAS:

For cost reporting for the Article 28 --

MS. MAHONEY:

I can't hear you.

MR. FREAS:

I'm sorry. For cost reporting for the Article 28, there's a -- we can claim benefits, right? I know we can't for Article 6 purposes or it goes into that formula.

MS. REYNOLDS:

I don't do their cost reports.

MR. FREAS:

No, I know. I was just wondering if you knew from the revenue dates.

MS. REYNOLDS:

No.

MR. FREAS:

Okay.

MS. REYNOLDS:

I never was involved in that. Now, can I just ask, if they give us a nice Medicaid rate, would that then kind of impact the IFT? Because that kind of balances us out, so what we might gain in a rate we might lose in IFT. Does it flow like that?

MR. CAREY:

Maybe long-term. I don't know how --

MS. REYNOLDS:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

Do you mean IGT?

MR. FREAS:

Yes.

MS. REYNOLDS:

IGT, I'm sorry. I'm thinking budget.

MR. CAREY:

I'll be perfectly honest, I don't know how they calculate the IGT, what timeframe they use.

MS. REYNOLDS:

All right. I just thought it might --

MR. FREAS:

The short answer to the question is yes because --

MS. REYNOLDS:

Probably.

MR. FREAS:

It does impact your IGT because the IGT is based on the difference between your high -- between your Medicare rates and your Medicaid rates and then they throw bed days and all kinds of things like that in.

MS. REYNOLDS:

To help you.

MR. FREAS:

But if your Medicaid gives -- but it's based on a loss, right?
The IGT is always based on a loss.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Right. I mean, this guarantees it, so.

MR. FREAS:

So if your Medicaid rate goes up, you're still making money, your IGT goes down.
So --

MS. REYNOLDS:

But there's no guarantee to the IGT anyway.

MR. FREAS:

-- the net changes.

MS. REYNOLDS:

So it's a better way to have the money upfront on the days and --

MR. FREAS:

Absolutely.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

MS. REYNOLDS:

It makes sense. I just wanted to --

MR. FREAS:

The IGT is a lot more volatile.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

MR. FREAS:

Especially in the way that it gets worded.

MR. CAREY:

I think right now it's still going to 13 to --

MS. MAHONEY:

You have to speak one at a time.

MR. CAREY:

I'm sorry.

MS. MAHONEY:

I'm sorry, but it's very hard to get everyone all at once.

MR. CAREY:

Okay.

MS. MAHONEY:

I apologize. Go ahead.

MR. CAREY:

It's okay. Anything else?

MS. REYNOLDS:

No, I just wanted to say that.

MR. CAREY:

One of the things we've recently instituted for the bad debt is a weekly meeting; bad debt meaning patients we're not getting paid for. We've now instituted a weekly meeting every Tuesday. We have a Clerk specifically assigned to Medicaid applications, and we have a liaison over in the Medicaid office now. So we hope to reduce --

MR. FREAS:

Social Services Medicaid.

MR. CAREY:

Right, Social Services Medicaid.

MS. REYNOLDS:

What is your uncollectible or uncovered number at this point, of patients?

MR. CAREY:

Our total number is 14, but that's -- some of them were recently admitted and it's the normal process of the Medicaid application. It really comes down to, out of the 14, six that are -- we're not getting paid for that we're having a problem. Out of the six, we have solutions on three of them. Our really primary problem is coming down to three difficult residents that we might end up having to go for guardianship, fiscally guardianship; basically family members not cooperating.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

There's money somewhere and --

LEG. BROWNING:

Oh, okay.

MR. CAREY:

Right. They originally dropped -- maybe they knew or maybe they didn't -- they dropped the family member off, they then realized that the 30 acres in Pennsylvania Medicaid looks at and we start busting their chops like, "Get in here. We need bank statements, we need this." And then we hear things like, "Well, my sister's going to do it." And then we speak to the sister, "Well, my other brother, he's coming into town next month, he's going to do it," and then we start the chasing and chasing and chasing. We have three of those cases that it looks like we're going to have to go for guardianship on.

The other cases, working with the liaison just this last month in the Medicaid office, we actually think we have a clear plan for the other cases to get the Medicaid. These three, we might have to end up next month or the month after that actually pursuing the guardianship.

LEG. BROWNING:

How do you do that when they have family members? I mean, when you -- how does that work, guardianship?

MR. CAREY:

Well, either internally or externally, a lawyer actually goes before the Judge and says, "All right, there's money there, but the son or the daughter is not using the money for the owner of the property."

*(*Legislator Kennedy entered the meeting at 10:28 a.m. *)*

If the resident in the nursing home has 30 acres, they're not benefitting from it, the son's in charge of that 30 acres now; if the son or daughter is not using it, selling it or using that money for the person who owns it, then you go to court and you show that to the Judge. And then the Judge will appoint the lawyer to be the custodial, and then that lawyer can now put it up for sale.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

But that's the most common thing, is we get that.

LEG. BROWNING:

That's even in the private nursing homes you see a lot of that.

MR. CAREY:

The same exact thing, right.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah.

MR. CAREY:

But it's a common runaround even in a private nursing home; "My other son will do it, my other daughter will do it," and it's -- if it was truly no money in the bank anywhere, they would just come in with a bank statement and say, "Here, there's no money in the bank. Get the Medicaid."

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

There's usually a trailer in Florida or land somewhere, that's what we're running in with these three.

Well, we've closed the fourth floor, Unit 4-South. We've consolidated the dementia -- that entire floor was for dementia patients.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

How many staff did that save, do you know?

MR. CAREY:

Approximately 13 positions, just about all agency positions. It was half agency, half regular staff, but that -- when we moved them over, that allowed us to get rid of other agency people. So approximately 13 agency staff positions, full-time, we should see starting next month coming off the budget. It pretty much went without a hitch.

The plan of correction; we're still doing the audits from the last plan of correction. Two big ticket items that are from the planning correction that are currently being done, one is hand rails that the State surveyors found that we had to do; they're actually scheduled to arrive today. And the other is the dampers in our duct system, which DPW is working on, they actually showed up last week to start.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Kevin, who's doing the hand rails? Is that an outside outfit or is it our guys?

MR. CAREY:

It's an outside vendor that we had -- DPW had a contract with, Austin.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

That was the only way to get it done quickly.

LEG. KENNEDY:

That's fine. And is it throughout all five floors or we're just --

MR. CAREY:

No, it's only one on basically the fifth floor, one small section of the fifth floor and the rest of it's all in the lobby.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I see.

MR. CAREY:

The surveyors were in the building -- I'm assuming this, by the way. The surveyors were in the building, we just happened to have a large amount of residents milling around the lobby. They said, "Well, if you have residents in the lobby, then you need hand rails." The building has been there 15 years, 15 surveys, never came up before.

MS. REYNOLDS:

I was wondering about that.

MR. CAREY:

And that's what they actually commented when they left. They said, "Well, we saw all your residents sitting round the lobby talking and we thought you should have hand rails." Okay.

*(*Laughter*)*

Well, another component to that is we had an unusual survey; we had a Federal survey with the State survey.

MR. FREAS:

Ah, so --

MR. CAREY:

So the Federal surveyor was walking behind the State surveyors.

MR. FREAS:

So they were watching the State guys.

MR. CAREY:

Right. They're rating the State surveyors. It happens randomly, supposedly.

LEG. BROWNING:

Oh, okay.

MR. CAREY:

So that was probably another factor, with all the residents in the lobby and the State -- Federal surveyor watching the State surveyor.

MR. FREAS:

They're really auditing the State survey.

MR. CAREY:

Surveyors, right.

MR. FREAS:

Because the State surveyor is, in other cases, acting as the agent for the Federal government as well.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah.

MR. FREAS:

Okay. Good to know they're checking up.

MR. CAREY:

Yes. Hand rails are due in today, DPW is working on the dampers.

I guess the other -- for me, the most crucial problem or difficulty is staffing. The number one department in the nursing home is the nursing department, and I'm currently running with a temporary Director of Nursing and a temporary Assistant

Director of Nursing and really down to one staff RN Supervisor and four to five agency RN Supervisors.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Explain the difficulties with weekends and snow storms with the temporary people.

MR. CAREY:

I actually have four RN Supervisors on my staff on the books, but one of them is acting as the Director of Nursing, Barbara Perillo. Another one has to do in-service and infection control and wound care, which leaves me two. Out of the two, one is a day shift RN Supervisor, one is the evening RN Supervisor. The evening RN Supervisor is out long-term medical and has stated that when she comes back she plans on retiring. The day shift RN Supervisor --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Hold for that one for a second. If she's out long-term medical and her intention is to convert from being now disabled to retirement --

MR. CAREY:

Well, she said she's coming back, but when she does -- I don't know the details about how she was -- just that she's expressed that to HR, that when she -- she's having surgery and when she comes back she's expressed to HR, "When I come back, I want to retire."

LEG. KENNEDY:

That's an area that's ripe for some discussion, not that we want to be in the business of forcing employees out or forcing them onto retirement, but the employer always has the prerogative to actually -- in other words, if an employee is going to be out for an extended period of time with no likelihood of them coming back, you see it a lot on the uniform side, we then can initiate the application for retirement on the part of the employee, instead of having that position held --

MR. CAREY:

Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

-- tied up for the duration of what she's going to use.

MR. FREAS:

Right, because it's contingent frozen until she disposes of herself.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right. She's going to run out her sick time, she's going to run out her vacation time, she's going to run out her short-term disability leave that she has by virtue of being a County employee and then convert over to retirement. We can -- legally we have the ability to advance that conversion and to do the retirement earlier.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

But if her plan is to come back, that means she's planning to be healthy enough to come back, wouldn't it imply that?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Again, six of one, half a dozen. What kind of surgery was she going for?

MR. CAREY:

I don't know.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Is it a hang nail or is it spinal surgery?

MR. CAREY:

No, I don't know. But I can have HR definitely look into clarifying how long she plans on being out and clarifying her intentions.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Absolutely.

MR. CAREY:

And if she makes her intentions clear that, "Oh yeah, I'll be retiring," then yeah, we'll --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Absolutely.

MR. CAREY:

-- definitely pursue it.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah. No doubt about it, that's something that we should be able to do. And that's something I've been a fan of, you know, across all departments. People are entitled --

MR. CAREY:

Yeah, I wasn't aware that we could do that, force a retirement.

LEG. KENNEDY:

When you look at State retirement laws, as a matter of fact, we have that option -- and it's been utilized more often, quite frankly, on the uniform side -- where folks have the -- what is it, 207 under Municipal? If you're injured on the uniform side, in essence, you have limitless sick time.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

But if the injury is of such a profound nature, you're never going to be able to come back to full duty.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Then the employer can initiate the retirement provision.

MR. FREAS:

It's a medical retirement, basically.

MR. CAREY:

Yeah.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yep.

MR. CAREY:

Okay. That's our 3 to 11 Supervisor. So, in essence, I have right now one RN staff supervisor on the floor supervising staff, and has put her papers in and her last day is the first or second week in January. So, in essence, those are -- that leaves me with just all RN agency supervisors running the building.

LEG. BROWNING:

And these supervisors, are they AME members also?

MR. CAREY:

Yeah. The current four? Yeah.

LEG. BROWNING:

But they kind of work in a management-type capacity, don't they?

MR. CAREY:

Yeah. So that leaves me with --

MS. REYNOLDS:

The position is not a management position, it is a Civil Service position; it's an RN Supervisor.

LEG. BROWNING:

It's a Civil Service position, yeah.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Well, what's the problem with them on weekends?

MR. CAREY:

Right. Many of them are very difficult to --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

They don't have to work weekends.

MR. CAREY:

In other words, we were basically paying the agency for them to show up. They're unreliable, they -- especially with the winter coming, snow storms, they're not going to make the extra effort. Long-term, they don't feel like they have a future in the building long-term, so things like our plan of correction, long-term problems to fix, it's not the ideal thing to have them. It's accepted that you have a small amount of them at any given time, it's accepted that you might have that, but not if we're going to get to the point where all the supervisors are agency.

MR. FREAS:

And their agency, they're not -- we don't have a temp scale for evening Supervisor.

MR. CAREY:

Supervisor? No.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right. So, but, I mean, if -- there's multiple problems here, then. So you have four who are in here who are long-termers who basically are just running the clock until they can bolt.

MR. CAREY:

Well, I have four of them, two of them are running the clock and they're bolting. Two of them, one is acting as the Director of Nursing and one is in the position, as in-service and wound care and infection control, which an RN has to do. So I can't really utilize -- I could in an emergency utilize him to supervise the floors, but I'm just saying on a daily basis, operational basis --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, so let's stay with the Director of Nursing for a second, then. So the filled position is an RN Supervisor, whatever it is, I don't know, Grade 23, 24, whatever, she's working voluntarily out of title as temporary Director of Nursing.

MR. CAREY:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Why don't we just do a desk audit to either get her upgraded or do something?

MR. CAREY:

I actually have a couple of e-mails going with -- I think her name is {Scangela} from Civil Service. The problem is Barbara Perillo is the Acting Director of Nursing, she only has an Associates Degree, which is fine for the State regs; Suffolk County spec for Director of Nursing is a Master's Degree. Which I've actually worked with her to try to change that, because the last Civil Service list that came out, the job spec says Master's Degree and nursing supervising experience; nowhere in our job spec does it say nursing home experience. We have one candidate on the list to be the Director of Nursing, she's never worked in a nursing home in her life. The rules and regulations are completely different. So that person cannot walk in and be the director of Nursing --

MR. FREAS:

(Inaudible).

MS. MAHONEY:

I didn't hear that, Craig. I'm sorry.

MR. FREAS:

I'm sorry. We have several -- we have problems all over the place where the specs are not necessarily the best fit for our needs.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

LEG. BROWNING:

These are just County specs. So you're saying if we were to go by what the State says, we wouldn't have a problem.

MR. CAREY:

All that they require is just a clean RN's license.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, what about -- I mean, from a job performance perspective, your assessment of Perillo is that she's doing the job, you're happy with her and you're content, you believe she could fill the Director of Nursing function.

MR. CAREY:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Is she amenable to any more education?

MR. CAREY:

No.

*(*Laughter*)*

LEG. KENNEDY:

Jesus Christ.

MR. FREAS:

You had that discussion?

MR. CAREY:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

She only has an Associates, so it means she has to work her way up.

LEG. KENNEDY:

She can go to Empire to get her --

MR. CAREY:

She would have to get her Bachelor's and her Master's while working, we're talking six years.

LEG. BROWNING:

She has to get her BA first.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm saying even if you just got her to the Bachelor's level through Empire, probably with life history and job credits and everything like that, she'd do one semester.

MR. CAREY:

Yeah, but she's -- I've had that discussion with her, she has no intention of going back to school. So I think the long-term solution is either change the job spec -- well, I think no matter, either way, whether we go with Barbara Perillo or go with another candidate, I think we should change the job spec. Even if we --

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know what? Look, again, you guys are in this business and know better than me, but, I mean, the whole pushing nursing is to go ahead, you know, to make it mandatory for at least a Bachelor's. My daughter is looking at that and, you know, you've got people in there that have Bachelor's Degrees.

MR. CAREY:

Well, I've actually taken one who just got her Bachelor's and she's going for her Master's, but she was just an RN nurse on the floor. I've actually taken her out and put her into MDS as Supervisor just to keep on -- start training her. In two years she'll have her Master's. She hasn't had any administration experience yet, which is why I just put her in.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right.

MR. CAREY:

She might be a very good solution in two years.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right, but that doesn't help you right now.

MR. CAREY:

Not today.

LEG. BROWNING:

That doesn't help you today.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I understand.

MR. CAREY:

My feeling is even if we lowered the -- it's time and experience, that Civil Service title.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

MR. CAREY:

So even if we lowered the requirements, if somebody came along with a Master's or Bachelor's, they would go to the top of the list anyway.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

MR. CAREY:

But currently, I mean, that's what we have, we have one person on the Civil Service list, as far as I know, and they do have a Master's, but they've never set foot in a nursing home before (*laughter*).

MS. REYNOLDS:

What kind of learning curve would that be, with somewhere that has the credentials but no background?

MR. CAREY:

A lot. Dealing with the State, dealing with surveys, dealing with the Article 10, all the regulations, it's --

LEG. BROWN:

Because I know sometimes the Civil Service test will say it requires a certain amount of education, but, you know, actual job experience can equate to --

MR. CAREY:

Right.

MR. FREAS:

It's a big deal. The nursing home industry is the second most regulated industry in the United States.

LEG. BROWNING:

Right.

MR. FREAS:

The first is the nuclear power plant industry; that's true. So the amount of knowledge you have to have, especially, I imagine, in a supervisory capacity as to what's appropriate from a regulatory census is significant.

LEG. KENNEDY:

What about just using a different title? Do we have any titles that are sitting there over in Civil Service that may be -- they may give you the flexibility that you need, even if we were to try to -- because there's nurses graduating, Kevin. They're out there. I got an e-mail this morning from my daughter, again, about a friend who's trying to find a job over at St. Johnlin's, I just recommended her -- him for Nesconset. There's RN's that want to go to work. Now, they're not at the experience level that you're talking about where you need somebody with five or ten years under the belt to run a house. But, you know, even for these floor RN's, if they've got a couple of years someplace and we bring them in, they're better than cycling through the agency nurses.

MR. CAREY:

Oh, yeah.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And they're the ones you're going to get that are going to come in and work a Saturday or a Sunday, do an evening. That drives me crazy. And I have to tell you something, I have little sympathy for anybody who says they're not going to work on a Saturday evening, because health care and the calendar are two foreign things.

MR. CAREY:

Well, that's -- I agree with you, I have no sympathy for them either, I would like to fire them immediately. That's what we get with agency. That's our problem, that we're -- like right now through this winter, right now through all of next month, 75, 80% of my schedule for supervising the building at nights and weekends is all RN supervising from an agency.

MS. REYNOLDS:

So is your problem more supervising RN's? You're not having trouble with RN's.

MR. CAREY:

No.

MS. REYNOLDS:

The regular RN's.

MR. CAREY:

Regular RN's we're fine.

MS. REYNOLDS:

All right. So it's the supervising level, you need that --

MR. CAREY:

The supervising level, right.

MR. FREAS:

Is it -- if we created a temp salary classification for RN Supervisor and you could hire somebody straight, would that help you at all or would it not make a difference? Where you're not hiring from the agency anymore, you're hiring them and then you can tell them you like them or don't like them, as opposed to having somebody from agency show up or not and then they -- you still get the same person with the same attitude and different day. Where you have more control over the quality of the person you get because you were to hire them, even if it was on a temp scale as sort of an interim solution; would that be helpful?

MR. CAREY:

Well, my actual problem is not finding them.

MR. FREAS:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

What I was really bringing to the table was the SCINS. I actually have two or three lined up that I can --

MR. FREAS:

Yeah, that --

LEG. KENNEDY:

You need him to sign SCINS.

MR. CAREY:

Right. Basically, what I'm bringing to the table is come January -- actually, right now it would probably be problematic, even if you guys wanted to do it right now, even if we could do it right now. If you got the SCINS released next week or the week after, and correct me if I'm wrong, I would have two weeks to find them, hire them before it would disappear again January 1st anyway.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Well, it's a weird time, but you can have roll over. I mean, any new hire -- that's the way I've done it in the past. We have a new County Exec on board, but we used to be able to roll any that were signed like November 2nd on because of the timeframe they were hired. They usually don't kill those SCINS.

MR. CAREY:

Even if they --

MS. REYNOLDS:

I don't know -- this year, you know.

MR. CAREY:

Yeah, I know.

MS. REYNOLDS:

You're supposed to put together the plan.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, but this is an important thing specifically to be able to bring to the loan's attention. Because there is going to be an opportunity for a couple of us to sit down and have, you know, like a punch list of gotta, must, absolutely have to have, like in the first week of January.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So it's you need three RN Supervisor SCINS signed?

MR. CAREY:

Yeah, right away, four would be ideal.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Four. Fine, fine.

MR. FREAS:

Are any of those vacant?

MR. CAREY:

One -- yeah, there should still be two -- still be four on the books, vacant. Well, I really don't know what position actually disappeared.

MR. FREAS:

We abolished everything that we created vacant in the last time we messed with that. In the budget they were abolished again, so you're going to have 221 as your total staff, where now you have 246 or something like that, I think?

MR. CAREY:

My current staff?

MR. FREAS:

No, no -- yeah, positions. You have like 246 or 245 positions.

MR. CAREY:

I don't know.

MR. FREAS:

I think you have 245 positions.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, but that reso that we did, remember, in order to go ahead and just forestall this November 15th?

MR. FREAS:

Right, but we restored everybody. So all -- those 221 are back, but those are already filled positions. So he's actually, those 221, you're going to have two vacancies -- we budgeted 221 positions in it, you have 219 currently.

MR. CAREY:

Currently, yes.

MR. FREAS:

Current. So whatever -- if you only -- you have two vacancies you could futz around with, basically, in January if you need to earmark something or -- that's a way you can do it. But other than that, you don't have any more vacancies you can earmark against to restructure the staff.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Well, the one that's put in her papers --

MR. CAREY:

So somebody would have to come off this time? Hypothetically, I have four Section 75's going on. If one or two of them came through --

MR. FREAS:

Well, if you -- well, no, if you lose those, you will still have those positions. Right? You have 221 positions next year to use, you don't have -- you're going to lose -- right now you have 245 positions, right, because we created all those positions in anticipation of all sorts of who knows what, but we did. The first time we amended the budget, we created those additional 24 positions.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

MR. FREAS:

In the 2012 budget we -- all the vacant positions in Foley are abolished.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

MR. FREAS:

So January 1st you're going to have 221, even though you're only funded for whatever. So if those Section 75's go through, those four vacancies are still there, they're not going to drop off like what was happening this year before we --

MR. CAREY:

Right.

MR. FREAS:

-- reinstated everybody. Every time you lost somebody they were gone, that position was gone forever. So you have those four re-hires and you have the two vacancies you have now. So if you need to earmark -- if you want to hire somebody but you don't necessarily want to hire who -- what the position is --

MR. CAREY:

Right.

MR. FREAS:

You could earmark against those positions, I think you'd be okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So the other point that's important for us if we're going to be a part of any of this conversation and ask for, you know, support at Bellone's level is just a simple -- maybe you have it or you guys certainly have it, you know, the cost contrast. You know, for being able to bring on an RN Supervisor as our employee compared to what we're going to spend over the month or the year for an agency RN supervisor, it's got to be, I mean, like mammoth when you compare the expense with the two.

MR. FREAS:

What are we paying for an agency nurse?

MS. REYNOLDS:

A regular is 50 --

MR. CAREY:

Uh, fifty --

MS. REYNOLDS:

Fifty-five I saw, I don't know if that's the Supervisor. I mean, I read the minutes from last meeting.

MR. CAREY:

I actually use four different agencies we pull from.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, you know --

MR. CAREY:

But it probably averages out to about 55, \$56 an hour.

LEG. KENNEDY:

That's for a straight RN?

MR. FREAS:

That's for RN Supervisors.

MR. CAREY:

Most of our contracts we only have RN's and we're actually -- the agencies are sending us an RN supervisor based on an RN salary. They're paying the RN a little bit more to come to us as an RN supervisor. We only have one contract, I think, with one agency that actually includes RN supervisor; they just included RN's.

MR. FREAS:

Are they -- is it eight hours? But these people are -- they're agency nurses at full-time. Are you paying them 40 hours a week or 50? What's your -- I'm trying to do this in my head and I'm trying to think about how much an RN supervisor costs us. I think an RN Supervisor is a 21 or a 23? I can look, it would take me a couple of minutes.

MS. REYNOLDS:
I think it's higher.

MR. FREAS:
No, we screw the nurses all the time. We hire them as 19/6's, we don't pay our nurses competitively at all.

LEG. BROWNING:
No, but it's the benefits.

MR. FREAS:
Right, but you're still 50, 55 bucks an hour.

LEG. KENNEDY:
I've got to tell you. You know, even that is a (inaudible).

MR. CAREY:
It should be more.

MR. FREAS:
The RN's are (inaudible) --

LEG. KENNEDY:
When you look at the 1199 benefits like my daughter's getting --

*(*Two conversations going on at once*)*

MS. MAHONEY:
I'm sorry, I'm not getting all of this.

LEG. KENNEDY:
So that whole notion that somehow our employees are making up on the back end with the benes, at least when you compare and contrast with 1199 it's not true. It's just it's not -- you know, we're getting the advantage of paying them less with this notion.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Well, part of your argument to Mr. Bellone would be not only the cost but the efficiency in the staffing to --

MR. FREAS:
Yeah. Well, that's a big thing.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
They're reliable and they have to come in.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Of course, of course, that I understand.

MR. FREAS:
Temporary Supervisor positions, that's scary stuff.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Right, exactly. It's not the way to go.

MS. REYNOLDS:

But if you had the SCINS, you have people that would qualify that you would want to move, so that's not the issue.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Finding them is not the issue, it was having the SCINS.

MR. CAREY:

And having the SCINS.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

We actually -- two of our agencies we actually put in the contract that we can hire from the agency. Most agency contracts specifically say you pay a huge penalty if you hire our employee; in other words, we steal them.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Oh.

MR. CAREY:

If we steal them from the agency, it could be like 30 or \$40,000 penalty for stealing from the agency.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right.

MR. CAREY:

But two of them, like Maximum is one of our biggest, he charges a little more; one of the reasons he charges a little more is because we have a clause in there, we can steal. So if at some point we want to hire somebody, and we actually have two lined up --

LEG. BROWNING:

But you don't -- on your current full-time staff, though, you don't have RN's that you could just move up.

MR. CAREY:

No.

MS. REYNOLDS:

Oh, you're planning on using like Max -- you're planning on using -- when you say you have people, they're not RN's that you want to promote up, the County RN's that you want to promote up.

MR. CAREY:

We have one, though.

MS. REYNOLDS:
They're agency RN's

MR. CAREY:
No, we have one or two agency RN's that we want to hire as RN Supervisors. We've actually surveyed our unit managers, our RN's on the floors, and for whatever reason they're not ambitious, they don't want to move up to a supervising position.

MS. REYNOLDS:
Oh. So it's not like you'd have a difficulty there, they don't want the position?

MR. CAREY:
They don't want it. Well, I only have about four or five of them, but one or two of them I wouldn't want as my supervisor and the one or two of them that I do want as my supervisor is not interested. But now they just, you know, run their floor, do their job and they're very happy where they are.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Okay. Can we move on to the next?

MR. CAREY:
Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:
Move on.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Because we've got some other items? Anything more from you, Kevin?

MR. CAREY:
No. I just wanted to ask, though, one of the things to throw out there, it came up in the resolution to lower the staff to 184. I would recommend that if that is going to be our mission, then maybe we -- you know, I'll just stop admitting and I'll get the Census down four points, you know, to 150, 160 beds. In other words, I need a plan for that.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
That's tied up with the RFP's.

LEG. KENNEDY:
How ironic they have this person for you to call about admit (*laughter*). No, I have to be honest with you, at least from what we're looking at right now, I think it's critical that we operate under the premise that we're open for business and that we're --

MR. CAREY:
Fully open a hundred percent.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Yep. Okay.

MR. CAREY:

I think with Jennifer Tea assigned out there marketing every single day, I think that we can actually start using the Census again.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Fred {Scanga} said that he's interested in trying to talk again and, you know, getting referrals over from Stony Brook. Brookhaven, there still needs to be some conversation with them, despite all the great representations. You know, this lady is a perfect example, as you'll see. You know, she was referred over to Oakridge.

MR. CAREY:

I spoke to admissions, they have the PO.

LEG. BROWNING:

Was this a patient?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay. A couple of things that I want to just go back and cover. The food service workers from Suffolk County Community College; what's the status on them? They were coming in, you had lost touch with them, you reestablished, they were coming in for like interviews or something?

MR. CAREY:

Right.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Are they part of us?

MR. CAREY:

No, we actually have scheduled for January to get a dietician and a cook from them.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Excellent. Do you need us to follow-up or that's nailed down pretty solid?

MR. CAREY:

No, that's going pretty good.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Excellent. Very good.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

All right. The other thing was the boilers; where are we on that? There was some mention in the last minutes of issues with the boilers, that they needed, I don't know, upgrading, repairs?

MR. CAREY:

The last minutes on the boilers?

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Yep.

LEG. BROWNING:

Something that --

MS. REYNOLDS:

I think it was a green initiative. It was initiative and a capital project I think from the minutes.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Yeah, I think you're right.

MS. REYNOLDS:

From the minutes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Wasn't that a required change?

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Well, that's what I'm not sure.

MR. FREAS:

Two years ago the new energy guy --

MR. CAREY:

Oh, heating. Not the actual boiling, the heating system.

LEG. BROWNING:

The heating system, yeah.

MR. FREAS:

It's their management system.

MR. CAREY:

Management system, yeah. We have a -- it's a half of million dollar computer system. The computer system monitors the valves and adjusts them automatically, that's been out for years.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

And a separate electrical box for emergencies, that whole thing.

MR. CAREY:

Oh, yes. Starting -- our plan of corrections from a 2007 survey, which we've -- from what I understand from reading the paperwork I have, over the last two years we've fought twice and lost, so we're actually required to -- by year-end 2012 --

MR. FREAS:

This is the fire proofing thing?

MR. CAREY:

Yes. There's two issues with the State, one of them is to separate our emergency backup power --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Right.

MR. CAREY:

-- from our primary power. The problem is not the generator, we have a generator that's fantastic.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Right.

MR. CAREY:

The problem is we need a separate set of wiring going up to each floor isolating the emergency power from primary power.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It came down the same conduit, the primary and the backup.

MR. CAREY:

Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

What they want is they want them split out.

MR. CAREY:

Split out and a separate circuit breaker box, basically, on each floor leading to emergency lights on each floor.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

So where are we on that? Is there money in the Capital -- my understanding is there's money in the Capital Budget.

MR. FREAS:

I thought the money -- I would be concerned if we have enough money for that. We put the money in the Capital Project for the re-fire proofing and the --

MR. CAREY:

Fire proofing was the second violation.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Right.

MR. CAREY:

On each floor there is what's called minimal wool on the top where the walls meet the ceiling.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Right, but --

MR. CAREY:

The regs the State didn't like, they want part of that taken out and fire stop put in.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

We know that. The question is do we have the money and are we moving forward on that?

MR. FREAS:

I -- the project was approved, or we put it in -- we put it in last year, we put the money in last year.

LEG. BROWNING:

I remember the fire proofing, but I don't remember the other one.

MR. FREAS:

You have to ask Diane whether the electrical money was included in that. I thought it was just the fire stop, but I might be wrong.

MR. CAREY:

I believe the electrical, both at the last one they had, DPW, was about 125,000, and the first year of fire stop insulation was 112,000.

MR. FREAS:

It sounds like we have enough money.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

I thought it was 600.

MR. FREAS:

Yeah, we put a lot of money in there.

MR. CAREY:

Six hundred thousand was not for violation, 600,000 was to fix the computer system that regulates the heat and air-conditioning throughout the building.

MR. FREAS:

Climate control.

MR. CAREY:

The climate control system. The system that was -- computer system that was originally put in there malfunctioned several years ago and DPW, I don't know what -- when that decision was made, rather than replace the half-million dollar computer system, they started replacing the automatic valves in the ceiling with manual valves. So half the building right now, DPW just --

MR. FREAS:

It's on a manual --

MR. CAREY:

If I call them and tell them my office is a hundred degrees because of the temperature change in the weather, they will come on the ladder and go up in the ceiling and adjust the valve in the ceiling.

MR. FREAS:

I remember this, because this is one of the things when Joe Schroeder that survey, that they had done this, that they had not fixed the climate -- whatever they call it, the building management system.

MR. CAREY:

Right. It's my under --

MR. FREAS:

They didn't fix that, they just decided, "Well, we'll just send a guy over."

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

In the last minutes it says, "Six hundred thousand, and then the other component was that they wanted to replace the boilers, which is another big number that also needed to be done."

MR. CAREY:

Well, that's the first I heard about it. The minutes from our meeting, I was at, replace the boiler?

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Yeah.

MR. CAREY:

I'm sorry, I missed that. I shouldn't have let that go by.

MS. MAHONEY:

You can listen to the tape.

MR. CAREY:

(Laughter) okay. But there's nothing wrong with the actual boilers, to my knowledge.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Right.

MR. CAREY:

It's just the computer system that regulates the valves.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Well, here's what we need. We need to know what is absolutely required from a deficiency point of view from the State, that they're requiring us to do, and then what we -- what additional work we think should be done just as good maintenance.

MR. CAREY:

Okay. According to the State, the electrical system and the Fire Stop insulation has to be started this year. The electrical system has to be done by December, 2012, and the basement and the first floor of the Fire Stop insulation has to be completed by December of 2012.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay. So we need to know if we've got money for those, and if there's plans we've got to -- I don't know, is DPW doing it or a contractor?

MR. CAREY:

Yeah, it all falls under DPW, unfortunately.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

All right. Well, we better be in touch with DPW to find out where they're at on it. And we'll check on the budget and see what's in -- this is all capital, I assume.

MS. REYNOLDS:
Right.

MR. FREAS:
Right.

MR. CAREY:
The boiler system --

MR. FREAS:
I'm almost sure we have enough money to do the survey stuff. Whether the building management system stuff is -- I'll check my correspondence about this, because we did this at the last -- do you remember this? We did it as a stand alone, maybe

LEG. BROWNING:
I remember the Fire Stop, I did a standalone for the Fire Stop.

LEG. KENNEDY:
But since we're coming up to end of the year sweeps, if we're not sufficient and we have to go hunting and there's something sitting around elsewhere, it would be opportune to grab it now.

MS. REYNOLDS:
The next budget season is coming up, so.

LEG. BROWNING:
Six months.

MR. CAREY:
The environmental control system, that's strictly efficiency wise, how much DPW uses in man power to go up and change the valves constantly.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
All right. But check on these boilers, because I don't know what that's all about.

MR. CAREY:
Okay.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Okay. You talked -- last time we talked a little bit about these work projects for the patients.

MR. CAREY:
Yes.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Is that -- what's the --

MR. CAREY:
It's progressed on a small scale. They're reading to each other.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Right.

MR. CAREY:

They're selling raffle tickets as part of the Resident Council.

LEG. BROWNING:

Oh, yeah, I was there, I've seen that.

MR. CAREY:

Right. We have not expanded it yet.

MS. REYNOLDS:

They're selling raffle tickets for what?

MR. CAREY:

The Resident Council actually raffles off things and raises money for itself.

LEG. BROWNING:

They did a breast cancer fundraiser.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It's like the sweepstakes, you know? *(Laughter)*

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Do we need to have this kind of stuff approved by anybody or reviewed by the County Attorney as to --

MR. CAREY:

No. None of it's --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

There was talk about folding laundry.

MR. CAREY:

None of it's replacing any employees. It's all -- none of it's replacing employees, it's all just basically therapy for the residents.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay.

MR. CAREY:

Even if we -- you know, we actually plan on getting them started and helping like bagging our utensils in the kitchen --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Right.

MR. CAREY:

-- in cellophane bags. Even if we get them doing that, the time it takes to have our staff member go with them and do that is exactly the same as if our staff member just did it.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

No, but my concern is --

MR. CAREY:

It's just a therapy issue.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

-- if somebody were to get injured doing one of these or -- you know, we have to make sure that they're not feeling coerced or anything like that.

MR. CAREY:

Right. No, nothing --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Are there any regs about this kind of factor?

MR. CAREY:

Well, it's encouraged, but there are no -- the regs are just board regs to do it safely.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

All right. Well, keep us updated on what these projects are.

MR. CAREY:

The two we have planned in the immediate future is in the kitchen helping with utensils -- after they're sterilized, they're clean, they just bag them, we put gloves on them -- and the other one is just right now currently to help fold laundry. But the same person who would do the laundry folding will bring it all upstairs to sit down with the residents, have the residents help them fold the laundry.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

No, I understand what they are, it's just a matter of whether it's permissible and under what circumstances.

MR. CAREY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay, RFP updates. There is a meeting scheduled later -- is it next week?

LEG. KENNEDY:

December 8th.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

December 8th, okay, for the Legislators RFP.

MR. FREAS:

I thought it was the 14th.

LEG. BROWNING:

Was it? I know I got an e-mail from Kathleen yesterday.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Yeah, yeah.

MR. FREAS:

Yeah, it's the 14th.

LEG. BROWNING:

Oh, it was changed to the 14th?

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

And the RFP by the County Exec, my understanding is that the committee asked for more information from the bidders, which is due in this week or next week, so that's the status of them. And we'll have more to say hopefully when -- after these meetings or the meeting?

LEG. BROWNING:

What time is that meeting for the RFP?

MR. FREAS:

Two thirty.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And it's here?

LEG. BROWNING:

And it's not on my calendar yet.

MR. FREAS:

This very room, sir.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Excellent.

MR. FREAS:

I believe it's the 14th.

LEG. BROWNING:

At 2:30. That's not on my calendar yet, that's why I'm just --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

I don't see it on the 14th.

MS. REYNOLDS:

You're the only one coming, Craig (*laughter*).

MR. FREAS:

Me and Kathleen.

LEG. BROWNING:

I know Kathleen did send out an e-mail yesterday, but I was in travel.

MR. FREAS:

No, I believe you were -- you and Leslie were both on the e-mail.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

All right, we'll clarify that. Any new business anybody wants to bring up?

MR. CAREY:

No.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

I have the e-mail, it says December 19th.

MR. FREAS:

The 19th?

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Yes, that's 2:30 on the 19th in the Legislature Conference Room.

LEG. BROWNING:

She's asking you to take care of the room.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Yeah, no, I got this room. Any other business items, issues?

LEG. BROWNING:

No. I guess being that Chris Destio is no longer with us, he moved on to bigger and better things, he's with Corrections right now, I guess we'll have to look at having an employee come in and sit in with us.

MR. CAREY:

Great.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Kevin is going to get a couple of names.

LEG. BROWNING:

I guess maybe put it out to bid (*laughter*).

MR. CAREY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

And our schedule for next meeting, It's probably easier to say when people aren't available. Let's see, today is the 29th. Do you want meet in December? We're supposed to meet monthly, but --

LEG. BROWNING:

What's the rules as far as meeting monthly, because we're required to meet monthly, if we don't meet next month?

LEG. KENNEDY:

The only thing that I'm thinking of is there's stuff for us to kind of find out.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Yeah.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I don't know --

MR. FREAS:
Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:
-- what more we're going to have to look at, actually, until, you know, the new Exec comes on board.

LEG. BROWNING:
Well, we have an RFP meeting on the 19th.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
That's right.

LEG. BROWNING:
And I think that -- you know, maybe after that meeting we might have some more -- I can't see meeting for the sake of meeting.

MR. FREAS:
Yeah, you'd have to meet the week after Christmas or the week before.

LEG. BROWNING:
That would be difficult.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Yeah. Well, let's see, the 19th is a --

LEG. BROWNING:
It's a Monday.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
-- Monday, so we've got the rest of that week, potentially.

LEG. BROWNING:
The Legislature meets on the 20th.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Right.

LEG. BROWNING:
Why are you laughing? That's the party. *(Laughter)*

MR. FREAS:
Yeah, it could be a really interesting meeting. Let's have it in the afternoon.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Wednesday looks -- well, for me.

LEG. BROWNING:
December 21st, it looks like I'm good to go.

MR. FREAS:
The 21st or the 22nd probably are the only two.

LEG. BROWNING:

The Wednesday is probably a better day.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

All right, so Wednesday at 10, here?

MR. FREAS:

Twenty-one December.

MS. MAHONEY:

We prefer the auditorium for the meetings, too, so we have to check on that.

LEG. BROWNING:

What's that?

MS. MAHONEY:

We prefer the auditorium, if possible.

MR. FREAS:

It's easier for them to do all the recording because they can put us --

MS. MAHONEY:

We're trying to move the meetings into the auditorium whenever possible because of -- you know, it's difficult.

MR. FREAS:

You did just great.

LEG. BROWNING:

We will try and accommodate you.

MS. MAHONEY:

I'll check it out.

LEG. BROWNING:

It is a public meeting anyway, so it doesn't matter.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And when are you having the party in the facility, Kevin?

LEG. BROWNING:

We just had that before you got there.

MR. CAREY:

December 8th is the residents Holiday party at seven o'clock. And we also started a new -- we're going to -- we have a bunch of donated lights and we're going to light up the gazebo area with Christmas lights.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Excellent.

MR. CAREY:

That's December 5th at 7 PM, we're going to do a little tree lighting out there.

LEG. BROWNING:

You had a tree donated, right?

MR. CAREY:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

A nice Christmas tree.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Great.

LEG. BROWNING:

So I believe -- I would like that we would let all Legislators know.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

LEG. BROWNING:

Actually, I did contact my son -- my son's in orchestra.

MR. CAREY:

Oh, really?

LEG. BROWNING:

To see if maybe a couple of the orchestra kids could come and play some music for them.

MR. CAREY:

Very nice.

LEG. BROWNING:

My son has Boy Scouts that night. Rather than Boy Scouts have their meeting, let them do something better, like come. And again, we can't give out candy canes or stuff like that.

MR. CAREY:

No.

LEG. BROWNING:

So if you have any ideas what the Boy Scouts could do to help the residents, you know, in some way.

MR. CAREY:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

They'll do something nice for them, that would be nice.

LEG. KENNEDY:

The lighting on the 5th is at what time?

LEG. BROWNING:

That would be December 5th, 7 PM.

MR. CAREY:
December 5th --

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Both at 7.

MR. CAREY:
-- 7 PM.

LEG. KENNEDY:
At 7 PM? Okay, thank you.

LEG. BROWNING:
And I don't -- just out of curiosity, because I know when my kids were -- my two older ones were in school, you know, every year we would have -- the school would come and play music and entertain. I mean, I think that it's not as much as it used to be.

MS. REYNOLDS:
My daughter's chorus always went to the nursing homes in the school's.

LEG. BROWNING:
Yeah. But the William Floyd kids used to go to John J. Foley all the time. The band and the orchestra and even my church would go there; it seems like they don't get that anymore. So it would be nice to try and bring that back for the residents.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:
Sure.

LEG. BROWNING:
So if you can find out who actually does come these days --

MR. CAREY:
Right.

LEG. BROWNING:
-- and we'll see if we can try and get some more in. There's three school districts; there's South Country School District, there's Longwood School District and the William Floyd School District that are right there, it's right in the middle.

MR. CAREY:
I don't know the actual schedule, I know activities does have a couple of out groups coming in. I don't know the actual names, though, but I will find that out.

LEG. BROWNING:
Well, if you need help. It would be nice to do for the residents, especially after this past couple of years. It's been sort of tumultuous and stressful for them, it would be nice to have something pleasant for them, right?

LEG. KENNEDY:
Absolutely. Sure.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

Okay. Anything else? Okay, motion to adjourn.

MR. CAREY:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN TOMARKEN:

And second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We are adjourned.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 AM*)*

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically