

LOCAL

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MHA to share its chief with Wildwood

Millville will receive \$75,000 a year

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MILLVILLE — The Millville Housing Authority has taken over management of Wildwood Housing Authority in a “shared services” deal that nets Millville \$6,250 per month for as long as the relationship lasts.

The authority’s Board of Commissioners approved the agreement at a meeting last week.

Under the terms, either Executive Director Paul Dice or Chief Operating Officer Ivy Evans will be at the office of the Wildwood authority on a daily basis. The authority has 150 units located on one block.

Dice said the deal took effect Monday. Wildwood authority’s executive director retired effective last Friday.

“We’re both evaluating the situation,” Dice said of the two authorities, noting the opportunity came up only last week. “There is a good possibility that it could be for the long run. It is a very good fit.”

Dice said an accountant who does work for both authorities suggested the idea to Wildwood instead of searching for a replacement for its director.

“When you share, it results in the distribution of the economies of scale,” Dice said. “We already have an information technology that allows us to run the MHA on site or off site.”

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Dice said the arrangement is common in the private sector and not unheard of in public housing in New Jersey. Millville in the recent past had approached the city of Bridgeton about running its authority, he said.

“So we had no doubt in our minds that they (Wildwood) didn’t need a full-time executive director,” Dice said.

The Millville authority operates 498 housing units, mainly among four high rises. It also, unlike Wildwood, operates a Section 8 housing program.

The agreement includes a 30 days notice escape clause for either party.

Over a year, Millville would earn \$75,000 from the deal with Wildwood. The added income was a strong consideration given anticipated declines in federal subsidies, according to Dice.