



City housing authority seeks more residents for program

By JOEL LANDAU • Staff Writer • April 29, 2010

MILLVILLE -- The Millville Housing Authority anticipates a rise in its Assisted Living Program in the next year.

MHA Executive Director Paul Dice said at Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting the authority has received a steady flow of new applicants to the ALP, including four residents from Maurice View Plaza who are transitioning into the program.

"I think this is a critical step for reaching future stability," he said.

The MHA has worked to increase participation in the program, which supplies 24-hour care for senior residents. The authority started to advertise the program on the radio and QBC TV2 during Millville Senior High School football games last year, which it had never done before for a program.

The MHA needs about 65 residents to break even. There are currently 58 residents in the program, Dice said. Enrollment is cyclical as residents may move out of the complexes.

Also at the meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved Dice to remain the executive director for a third year.

Dice, who serves as the board's secretary, gave a small fist pump in jest after recording each "yes" vote.

Dice started in May 2008 and received the same 3.5

percent increase as all MHA employees. He will make \$101,766 under the contract, which will run from May 12 to May 11, 2011.

Dice said he will work on a series of objectives this year, including creating a master plan for all of the authority's properties and creating a guideline for how the property managers should oversee their areas.

"My biggest concern is how do we handle the issues for the next 20 years," he said.

Dice said the staff will create operational benchmarks for the authority and its facilities.

"This is the year of fine tuning," he said. "I want us to be able to say we have met our goals."