

Grants Committee Meeting

June 14, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present:

Rick Vernier, Vice Chairman
June Chartrand
Willie Dancy
Susan Gruberman
Roy Mosley, Jr.
John West

Members Excused:

Joseph Kassly, Jr., Chairman

Staff Present:

Terry Beach, Executive Director
Jennifer Little, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Fred Boch, St. Clair County Board Member

In Chairman Kassly's absence, Vice Chairman Vernier called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman Vernier asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no public comments.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Chartrand, and a second by Mr. West, the minutes from the May 10, 2017 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. West, and a second by Mr. Mosley, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of May, 2017 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Gruberman, and a second by Mr. Dancy, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of May, 2017 were approved unanimously and placed on file. IGD financial statements were present for review.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group and the report was placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Development Group and the report was placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Workforce Development Group and the report was placed on file.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Chartrand, and a second by Mrs. Gruberman, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Resolutions

None

Old Business

None

New Business

A. Director's Report

- Terry Beach reminded members of the concerns last year regarding the state budget and the federal funds that passed through the state. He stated although these federal funds do not affect the state's balance sheet, the state does not like to release funds to agencies such as IGD until there is a new budget with a new line item. He reminded members the County, with bipartisan support from Senator Durbin, former Senator Kirk, and the U.S. Department of Labor, threatened to sue the state last year before they agreed to release the held federal funds. Mr. Beach stated such an agreement has not been reached this year. If a budget is not passed prior to July 1st, IGD will be short approximately half of the funding it needs and will be required to pull from its reserve funding. Mr. Beach added it looks bleak as it does every year; he expressed the issue is being addressed.
- Mr. Beach stated the budget proposed by the Trump administration and the federal OMB [Office of Management and Budget] would eliminate the Community Development Block Grant, the Community Services Block Grant, the LIHEAP program, the Continuum of Care Homeless program, the Weatherization program, and approximately one-third of the Workforce Investment program. Without the WIOA cuts, IGD would lose approximately 65.4%, or just over \$8 million, of its budget. The WIOA cut would be an additional \$1 million lost. Mr. Beach stated three-fourths of IGD staff would be laid off including himself. Mr. Beach discussed the history of each grant program; he added nearly \$2 million of current IGD grant funding is given directly to other agencies such as Call for Help, Bethany Place, and CDBG Operations to assist with their operations. Mr. Beach stated there is bipartisan support to keep some of these programs making it unknown as to if they'll be kept, kept in part, or disappear. He added the funding is being redirected to defense spending rather than addressing the deficit; he expressed it is a catch-22 for the County as defense spending benefits Scott Air Force Base.

Mr. West stated it appears there is agreement among democrats and republicans to keep Economic Development. Mr. Beach stated the President announced last week support for apprenticeship projects; however the OMB itself is calling for a one-third cut to WIOA which IGD manages. He added the funding may be directed to community colleges but the federal EDA is proposed for elimination.

Vice Chairman Vernier asked if IGD has the option to sue the State of Illinois again. Mr. Beach responded he is making that suggestion to Chairman Kern and the States Attorney.

Mrs. Chartrand asked if the Grants Committee is able to help in any way such as a resolution. Mr. Beach responded she could make a motion. Mrs. Chartrand offered a motion to urge the state to pass the federal dollars through to St. Clair County IGD and pursue a lawsuit if need be; Mr. West seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Vernier called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. West offered a motion to approve the Director's Report and Mr. Mosley seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Vernier called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

Other Comments

Mrs. Gruberman asked how many people were on staff at IGD. Mr. Beach responded approximately forty. He explained eight to ten part-time temporary staff are brought on when the LIHEAP program is open.

Vice Chairman Vernier inquired about the July 1st funding deadline having an effect on the July Grants Committee Meeting. Mr. Beach responded the meeting would not be affected as IGD will be operating on reserve funds at that time.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Vernier entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Mosley, and a second by Mr. Dancy, Vice Chairman Vernier adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.