

Grants Committee Meeting

**March 14, 2018**

**MINUTES**

Members Present:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman  
June Chartrand  
Willie Dancy  
Susan Gruberman  
John West

Members Excused:

Carol Clark, Vice Chairman  
Roy Mosley, Jr.

Staff Present:

Terry Beach, Executive Director  
Jennifer Little, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Fred Boch, St. Clair County Board Member

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Chairman Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Upon a motion by Mr. West, and a second by Mr. Dancy, the minutes from the February 20, 2018 Special Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Chartrand, and a second by Mrs. Gruberman, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of February, 2018 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Gruberman, and a second by Mr. West, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of February, 2018 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 Mr. West, and a second by Mrs. Chartrand, 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 informed members Ameren recently sponsored a heating assistance event at the Jackie Joyner Kersee Center in East St. Louis; three IGD staff assisted with verification and intake at the event which served 635 households.

Mr. Beach stated the Community Development Block Grant program held public hearings last week soliciting information from the public in regards to projects for next funding year. Two hearings were held in St. Clair County at the Intergovernmental Grants Department, one in Red Bud, and one hearing was held in East St. Louis at the public library. He added notices were posted online and on social media as well as in the Belleville News Democrat and East St. Louis Monitor. Mr. Beach stated there was a large turnout at the East St. Louis location including both citizens and public officials who provided good feedback.

Mr. Beach reminded members the Workforce Development Program has six offices located in five counties; staff are located in Carlyle, Nashville, Chester, Waterloo, and two locations in Belleville. 26,000 services were provided in 2017 to job seekers and existing workers in need of re-training and training.

Mr. Beach encouraged members to like and follow the Intergovernmental Grants Department on Facebook as well as St. Clair County Economic Development which is also on Twitter.

Mr. Beach stated 65.4% of our budget was proposed to be cut last year which did not come to fruition. This year, every IGD program is slated to be eliminated to pay for infrastructure and the military. He added funds are threatened to be cut each year; however, he believes some cuts may go through this year. There are a number of trade organizations working on our behalf in Washington D.C. with both Republicans and Democrats. Cuts would be effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. West asked if every program would be cut. Mr. Beach confirmed every single program is slated for elimination. Mrs. Chartrand asked if that included the food certificate program. Mr. Beach responded yes; this department would close. All IGD employees would be laid off; there may be a phase out period in which current projects, such as street projects, are completed.

Mr. Beach informed members Rick Stubblefield is in Washington D.C. for the first-ever Association of Defense Communities Leadership Academy; the purpose is to improve how we can work with military families. Forty people were selected from across the country; Mr. Beach nominated Mr. Stubblefield to attend. Mr. Stubblefield and Matt Jones meet with airmen participating in TAP, Transition Assistance Program, at Scott Air Force Base every Friday. The TAP program is required of all military members regardless of rank prior to retirement; the program assists members exiting the military with skills such as writing a resume and accessing job search databases.

Mr. Beach announced the Illinois Counties Association, ICA, rebated a check in the amount of \$7400 to IGD's Community Action Agency which is a 501c3. The rebate was based on the amount of County employees that participate in the nationwide 457b Deferred Compensation Program. Chairman Kern has requested the funds be donated to the St. Clair County Office

on Aging; it will be presented at the upcoming County Board meeting. Sue Gruberman asked if it was based on the number of County employees participating in the program. Mr. Beach responded yes.

### **Other Comments**

Fred Boch asked how likes on Facebook can be an advantage to IGD. Mr. Beach explained it assists in the sharing of information and increases views. He described how a post regarding IGD's Workforce Development pairing with BJC for their job fair last year at Memorial Hospital was shared 237 times and was viewed by 32,000 people.

Willie Dancy stated the railroads that run throughout East St. Louis are never maintained; they are overgrown with weeds. Mr. Boch noted the tanks located near the Martin Luther King Bridge are also not maintained. Mr. Beach suggested he contact the Interstate Commerce Commission, ICC, in Springfield as they have a Railroad Safety Division to address issues about the condition of railroad tracks, site issues, or gates that are not working. He also stated the City could place a lien on the property for the cost of cutting weeds. Mr. Beach explained the County is the second largest rail center in the United States after Chicago. The Terminal Railroad continues to serve 68 industries on both sides of the river, the vast majority of which are on the Illinois side. Mr. Dancy reiterated there is a large number of trains that are sitting and not maintained. Mr. Beach stated he has worked with the major rail companies on a regular basis for the last 40 years as part of his duties as Economic Development Director; the rail companies want our support on projects and obtaining federal grant funding; in return, the County makes requests of them as well. Mr. Beach stated this issue could be included. He asked Mr. Dancy to provide him with general areas that need to be addressed as it could be included in the County's requests.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Dancy, and a second by Mr. West, Vice Chairman Vernier adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.