

Grants Committee Meeting

October 10, 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, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Specialist

Others Present:

Fred Boch, St. Clair County Board Member

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 comments.

Upon a motion by Mr. West, and a second by Mrs. Chartrand, the minutes from the September 12, 2018 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 September, 2018 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 September, 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 Mrs. Chartrand, and a second by Mr. Dancy, 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 stated the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, started October 1st throughout the State of Illinois. Beginning October 1st, seniors over sixty and disabled are able to call for a LIHEAP appointment; November 1st the program will open to households with children under six; and December 1st the program opens to all households. Mr. Beach added approximately 8,400 households were served last year. LIHEAP has contracts not only with Ameren but all other providers including propane companies in rural areas. Chairman Reeb asked how the program is staffed. Mr. Beach responded LIHEAP has a few full-time staff for year round duties; however when the program is taking applications, temporary staff are hired at a rate of \$12.00 per hour with no benefits. He explained temporary staff had previously been limited to working 600 hours annually; due to the amount of training required, hours for temporary staff have now been extended. IGD hires 3 to 4 temporary employees each program year.

Mr. Beach informed members IGD's Facebook presence continues to grow. He manages both the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department and Economic Development Facebook pages. He shares stories between both pages multiple times a week. He added he also manages a combined twitter page for both agencies. John West stated his constituents appreciate the social media postings. Mr. Beach thanked him for sharing the posts so often.

Mr. Beach stated there is a new security guard that provides security for the entire building. The guard is located at a desk in the lobby of the building. Mr. Beach added the guard is a commissioned deputy sheriff and brings with him 25 years of experience with the East St. Louis Police Department. He explained the building is now the St. Clair County Annex building. He stated St. Clair County Transit has officially moved from O'Fallon into the building at 27 North Illinois. The Public Building Commission has rehabbed the building and the Transit Department is paying rent. Mr. Beach added that in the past bailiffs would have to come across the street from the courthouse if needed; having security in the building will make a big difference. All departments located at 19 Public Square are sharing the cost of having a security guard in the building.

Terry Beach announced the start of the Holiday Food Certificate Program. He asked Jennifer Little to further explain. Ms. Little stated the program will use the same format as last year; members will receive five orange pre-applications to distribute for Thanksgiving and five green pre-applications to distribute for Christmas. Pre-applications list all required documents and eligibility criteria. Ms. Little added they will be postmarked and recipients can place them in the mail or drop them off in person. Sue Gruberman asked if the certificates would be to Shop-n-Save as the store will be closing. Ms. Little responded no, staff were reviewing options with Schnucks and Aldi's. Mr. Beach added IGD is looking to have a few centralized store options available. Willie Dancy asked about the value of the food certificates. Ms. Little responded \$100.00; she added recipients would not be eligible to receive both Thanksgiving and Christmas certificates. Mr. Beach stated upon receiving the returned pre-applications, IGD staff will contact individuals and set appointments to determine eligibility; County Board members are not required to determine eligibility. Ms. Gruberman asked if the income guidelines have changed since last year. Ms. Little responded yes; the pre-applications have

been updated to reflect current income guidelines. Mr. Beach suggested members inform their referrals that the pre-application does not necessarily mean they will receive a food certificate as they will need to verify their eligibility. Ms. Little stated 145 pre-applications will be distributed to County Board members for Thanksgiving and 145 for Christmas. June Chartrand asked if only County Board members will distribute pre-applications. Mr. Beach responded yes, initially; he added if there is a low response, additional pre-applications will be distributed to other groups and agencies. Ms. Little informed members the pre-applications require their signature at the bottom to confirm authenticity and noted they are individually numbered. She also added the individual named on the pre-application will be required to apply; appointments cannot be given to a different individual.

Other Comments

Sue Gruberman asked for suggestions as to who may provide smoke detectors and install them in an elderly person's residence. Mr. Beach asked if they were in the City of Belleville. Ms. Gruberman answered no, outside of the city limits. Mr. Beach suggested she contact Wes Krummrich with the Belleville Fire Department as they may be able to assist. He asked her to contact him if they were unable to help. Chairman Reeb offered to assist as well. Mr. Beach suggested she review the County Code as he believed smoke detectors are now required to be hardwired.

Adjournment

Chairman Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. West, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.