

Grants Committee Meeting

December 8, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present:

Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Richie Meile
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey
Willie Dancy

Members Excused:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman
Roy Mosley, Jr.

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Specialist

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Assistant Chair Susan Gruberman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room and took roll call.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Assistant Chair Gruberman asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no comments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey and a second by Mr. Meile the minutes from the November 10, 2021 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of November, 2021 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of November, 2021 were approved unanimously and placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group and the reports were 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. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, 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

Rick Stubblefield stated Weatherization continues to complete and finalize houses. He noted the new Energy Auditor is doing well in training, scoring 90 and above on tests and assessments; he recently passed the hardest course of the training program. Mr. Stubblefield informed members Weatherization had a contractor with the University of Illinois, who is retired from the state training program, come and provide technical assistance/monitoring. The contractor spent time with all three Energy Auditors observing their work and performance; he reported all three are doing a great job, work well together, and are one of the most efficient groups he has observed. Mr. Stubblefield explained IGD Energy Auditors are sent out and work in pairs to ensure their safety. He stated the contractor will be returning to work with Weatherization staff on the Weatherworks computer program.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the governor recently announced the new Low Income Home Water Assistance Program, LIHWAP. The program will be part of IGD's LIHEAP and CSBG group and will be included on the LIHEAP application. He anticipates the program will be up and running the first of the year. Mr. Stubblefield stated there is roughly \$1,000,000 available in program assistance. The program can assist those who are disconnected, are \$250 in arrears in water and sewer, or in imminent danger of disconnect and have received a notice. Ms. Gruberman asked if the program assists those who have had their water disconnected because of a sewer bill. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes; if services are tied together, he believes payment can be made for all services including trash; he noted the City of Belleville ties trash into the sewer bill. He stated he would look into that further. Ms. Gruberman asked if payment is made directly to the municipality. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes; payment is never made to the applicant. He noted not every municipality has agreed to be a part of the program. Mr. Stubblefield explained most of the county is covered by Illinois American Water who is participating; however, there are smaller municipalities that are not covered by Illinois American Water that will need to choose whether or not they will participate. Mr. Stubblefield stated there is a surcharge added to Illinois American Water bills to fund the program; he is unsure if municipalities have to agree to add the same surcharge to participate. He expressed the CSBG water program previously faced challenges with municipalities refusing to participate in a similar assistance program. Ms. Gruberman stated that her municipality will not accept checks if the service is already cut off; there are also additional fees. Mr. Stubblefield responded the goal is to assist prior to cutoff and noted the program can assist with paying fees.

Mr. Dancy referenced the Community Development report and noted it reflects Alorton and Centerville Township. Mr. Stubblefield responded those projects were awarded last year prior to the merge; he is unaware of the structure moving forward as he is unsure if the state has recognized the area as one municipality.

Mr. Stubblefield stated Community Development continues to work on the HOME and Rehabilitation applications. He expressed it continues to be a struggle to get contractors for the Rehabilitation program. Mr. Stubblefield stated some COVID Treasury funds remain; IGD is limited as to what can be done with the funds; funds may be used for another economic development program. He expressed IGD would like to use the funds for homeless assistance; the problem is how a program, facility, or transitional housing would be sustained long-term as the funds are limited. Mr. Dancy suggested St. Mary's Hospital. Mr. Stubblefield responded the challenge is how a facility would be sustained long-term without year-after-year funding for upkeep, maintenance, staffing, and utilities.

Mr. Stubblefield stated Workforce Development continues to get participants for the Apprenticeship program. He reminded members of the recent apprenticeship roundtable; vendors and employers were recognized on IGD's social media. Mr. Stubblefield stated Soulcial Kitchen now has 14 disabled veteran apprentices. The apprenticeship program has just under 100 apprenticeships in all areas including healthcare, manufacturing, service, and restaurant industries. Mr. Stubblefield stated he spent Monday with Boeing and SWIC at Boeing in St. Louis; they toured the F-15 plant to get an idea of the needed training. He explained Workforce Development staff are working with SWIC to provide training on this side of the river at SWIC's new advanced manufacturing facility. Currently all Boeing employees that work in their manufacturing/machine shops go through Florissant Valley - St. Louis Community College for training. He explained Boeing has proprietary curriculum for the training; the State of Missouri reimburses them for much of the training. Mr. Stubblefield is working on the logistics of having that curriculum at SWIC to provide training on this side of the river as well. He is hoping the Metrolink expansion will provide access to transportation for those who may not have access to Granite City; they would then be able to take Metrolink to the new aerospace park to work. Mr. Stubblefield stated they also visited Flo Valley to see where and how they train as well as meet the instructors. He expressed Boeing is engaged and has been part of this conversation for the last three years. Mr. Dancy mentioned his son is a supervisor at Boeing; Rick asked him to share his contact information with him.

Mr. Stubblefield noted the HRC application for homeless funding has been submitted.

Other Comments

None

Adjournment

Assistant Chair Gruberman entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Dancy, motion passed and Assistant Chair Gruberman adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.