

Grants Committee Meeting

June 9, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Richie Meile
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Willie Dancy
Roy Mosley, Jr.

Staff Present:

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

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Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Grants Committee Meeting was held in the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department Administration Conference Room and via conference call. Chairman Stephen Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and took roll call.

Rick Stubblefield asked each member attending via conference call the following: "Do we have your authorization to sign your name electronically on items that are approved?"

Response:

Chairman Stephen Reeb – yes
Richie Meile – yes
Ken Sharkey – yes

Upon a motion by Ms. Gruberman and a second by Mr. Greenwald the minutes from the May 12, 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 May, 2021 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Meile, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of May, 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 informed members St. Clair County IT shut down all County systems out of an abundance of caution as a result of the network breach. He noted IT staff including Jeff Sandusky and Chip Barbour have been hard at work and putting in long hours; he expressed they have done a tremendous job. Mr. Stubblefield stated the County email system is back online. He added the biggest challenge for IGD is the department's MIPS financial system is still down; IGD is undergoing their annual audit this week and the server being down has created some challenges. It is being rebuilt and is expected to be up and running soon. He noted it could have been worse and stressed no personal information was lost. He expressed his gratitude for the work IT is doing. Richie Meile stated he serves as Chairman of the Management Information Committee and expressed the great job being done by Jeff Sandusky. Rick Stubblefield agreed and stated the IT Department is doing everything they can to bring approximately 1,000 people back online; IT staff deserve to be treated with respect.

Rick Stubblefield stated the Weatherization program has a state monitor here looking at houses. He noted state offices remain closed yet state monitors are here requesting to go into client homes.

Rick Stubblefield informed members the LIHEAP program closed at the end of May and is expected to reopen the beginning of September. He stated he sits on the IACAA Board and there is conversation regarding making the LIHEAP program a twelve-month program; it does not make sense to close the program when there is need through the summer months and no lack of funding. Mr. Stubblefield stated he believes there will be a water program similar to LIHEAP in the near future. He noted it will depend on if the water companies want to participate; the large utilities will likely participate however municipalities may be a challenge. Mr. Stubblefield anticipates the program will run through IGD.

Rick Stubblefield stated Community Development continues to work on the rehabilitation program; there is a public hearing next week.

Rick Stubblefield stated Community Services continues to take applications for rent, mortgage, and water assistance. He reminded members IGD partnered with IHDA to expend the Department of Treasury funds. He noted IHDA had the existing infrastructure including technology and staff; IHDA will also assume responsibility for monitoring and duplication of services. Mr. Stubblefield stated most counties accepted the Treasury funds and then gave IHDA a portion; those counties will be responsible for monitoring IHDA and will be accountable if they do something wrong because the funds are their own. Mr. Stubblefield stated in the last three weeks 2,956 applications have been submitted by landlords for St. Clair County residents; 1651 applications have been completed. The 2,956 applications represent \$19+ million in rental assistance; the 1651 completed applications represent \$10.6 million in rental assistance. He stressed if all completed applications are approved, St. Clair County has already exceeded its original allocation by more than \$2 million. Ms. Gruberman asked if applications that exceed the original \$7.7 million will still be funded. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes; St. Clair County will gain funds not being used by other counties.

Rick Stubblefield stated Workforce Development continues to move at warp speed. He stated an apprenticeship entity is creating a mobile lab that will contain various equipment; the lab will visit high schools, prisons, and job fairs. Mr. Stubblefield stated local law enforcement is also interested in creating an apprenticeship. He expressed the work done by IGD Workforce staff has been amazing and is getting state recognition. DCEO hosted an event today about opportunities for employers regarding on-the-job training and apprenticeships; three St. Clair County and two Madison County staff attended. Mr. Stubblefield stressed twelve years ago, the Workforce program was at risk of being taken from St. Clair County and it has now become the go-to program for the state.

Other Comments

None

Adjournment

Chairman Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Meile, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, motion passed and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.