

Grants Committee Meeting

March 10, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

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 and the Governor's Executive order issued March 23rd, 2020, the Grants Committee Meeting was held via conference call. Chairman Stephen Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and took roll call.

Rick Stubblefield stated items included in the agenda would require signature if passed. He asked each member the following: "Do we have your authorization to sign your name electronically on items that are approved?"

Response:

Chairman Stephen Reeb – yes
Asst. Chair Sue Gruberman – yes
Willie Dancy – yes
Scott Greenwald – yes
Richie Meile – yes
Ken Sharkey – yes

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

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of February, 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. Dancy, and a second by Mr. Meile, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Resolutions

- A. Chairman Reeb presented a resolution authorizing the St. Clair County Board Chairman to prepare, submit, and execute an application (Annual Action Plan) to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Greenwald offered a motion to approve and Mr. Dancy seconded the motion.

Chairman Reeb called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Director's Report

Rick Stubblefield informed members the county phone system has been overwhelmed due to COVID-19 vaccination calls. Callers to county departments including IGD are receiving busy signals; staff have been unable to get a line out. Mr. Stubblefield encouraged members to email or call his cell.

Mr. Stubblefield stated IGD is getting ready to kick off the Illinois Rental Payment Program. He reminded members the County is partnering with IHDA to provide approximately \$7.5 million in rental assistance to county residents. Mr. Stubblefield explained the program will have landlords apply directly on behalf of tenants. He noted the program will still require tenant involvement and the landlord will need to provide an email address for each tenant. Tenants will receive an email link to submit their documentation. Mr. Stubblefield stated a mechanism will be in place in the event a tenant will not participate to ensure the landlord can move forward. He stated payments can be up to \$20,000 for each tenant to prevent housing instability; the program can pay up to 12 months in arrears and 3 months moving forward. Mr. Stubblefield will be speaking to the Metro East Realtor Association group on Monday; IHDA will participate as well. The goal is to have landlords ready when the application opens; landlords will be able to gather their documents as well as tenants ahead of time and submit them the day the application opens. He expressed the goal is to expend the \$7.5 million and receive additional funds when funds are reallocated in September. Mr. Dancy asked for a copy of the program information. Mr. Stubblefield responded he would email him the information.

Mr. Stubblefield informed members IGD has expended approximately half of the \$112,000 IACAA grant. He reminded members the grant assists with rent and is specific to SNAP recipients.

Mr. Stubblefield reminded members HRC has moved under Christina Anderson and Community Development. He expressed Ms. Anderson is working a lot of hours and doing a tremendous job. He and Ms. Anderson continue to work with HUD regarding the Continuum of Care and Homeless Action Council. Mr. Stubblefield stated they are making good progress.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the two Weatherization Energy Auditors will be taking their BPI federal certification this Friday.

Mr. Stubblefield informed members the Workforce Development office that was housed with unemployment and Veteran's in Belleville has moved to a new location on the far west end of

Belleville in the old Region's processing center. IDES, Children Services, Veteran's, and other offices have moved to the building as well. Transit has worked to ensure bus service will stop at the building doors. Phone and IT are finalizing a few issues however Mr. Stubblefield expressed the move went very well.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the Community Development Group has received the additional \$1.6 million in CARES Act funds. Community Development is working on an alliance with East Side Health District to assist with paying their contact tracers. Contact tracers are being laid off due to a lack of funding. The goal is to also utilize Workforce funds to assist when tracers are laid off in four to six months. Workforce can pay for training for those interested in going into medical apprenticeship training. The goal is to move those individuals into medical assistant, lab tech, or phlebotomy training. Mr. Stubblefield expressed there is a huge need in those fields and Workforce has the funds to assist with training.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the First Time Homebuyer Program is very busy. Despite the pandemic, houses are selling and the program is busy.

Mr. Stubblefield informed members the new Director of DCEO, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, will be visiting IGD the beginning of April along with the Deputy Director for Economic Development and the Deputy Director for Employment and Training. They will be visiting various areas of St. Clair County.

Other Comments

Scott Greenwald expressed his thanks to Mr. Stubblefield and Jennifer Little for providing help to one of his constituents through the SNAP program.

Adjournment

Chairman Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Dancy, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, motion passed and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.