

To Grants Committee Meeting

January 8, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Scott Greenwald
Courtney Moore
Ken Sharkey
Matt Smallheer

Members Excused:

Richie Meile

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown

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Chairman Steve Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Clair County Annex Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Reeb took roll call.

Chairman Reeb asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were none.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the minutes from the December 11, 2024 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Moore, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of December, 2024 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Smallheer, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in December, 2024 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. Moore, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Old Business

None.

New Business

A. Director's Report

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Community Development Block Grant's CAPER has been submitted and is pending Housing and Urban Development approval. HOME submitted an amendment and that has been approved. The Environmental Reviews for PY24 Public Facility projects are 95% complete. The Public Facilities applications were sent out the week of December 25th.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that six applications were returned for the Disaster Recovery project. Staff and the Corps of Engineers scored those applications. Five of the six applicants should receive funding. There were some questions that needed to be addressed and applicants have until January 30th to answer those requests.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Weather Works system is still currently not working properly. Weather has 5 completed with 10 jobs out. Last year at this time, they had 17 complete and 40 jobs out. Other agencies are seeking advice from us. State Techs are very little help as they are also not receiving help from the top. Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies is going to meet with DCEO in a small group to try and get some answers or assurances that agencies will not be held liable or penalized for not spending funds or any issues that arise due to system deficiencies.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that LIHEAP applications entered in PY25 are down about 2% versus this time last year. There are approximately 200 applications in the queue to be entered. The number of households that have been approved or have received a benefit this program year is slightly lower. They have experienced some challenges with customers returning the requested documentation needed to determine eligibility. LIHEAP will attempt to contact some of the customers. As an outreach effort, they look to identify customers who received assistance for PY24 but have yet to apply for PY25 assistance. These efforts boost the number as they reach to the end of the program year.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Workforce Development is caught up on their waitlist. A series of training courses have been scheduled for the Career Specialists. An Appropriations Grant is undergoing some changes and should be finalized soon.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Community Services Block Grant signed their sub grant recipient award letter this morning. They had six projects this year: Office on Aging, CDBG Operations, Sinai, Catholic Urban Programs, and Violence Prevention. CSBG is still seeing an increase in the need for mortgage, rental and food assistance.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that fraud, waste, and abuse training is underway for staff. Training is done online through a new IACAA program.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that HUD announced that St. Clair County will receive another Disaster Recovery Grant in the amount of \$90 million. This will be used for the flooding of 2024.

Mr. Sharkey made a motion to approve the Director's report and Mr. Greenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments

None.

Adjournment

Chairman Steve Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Moore, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, motion passed, and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.