



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Draft - Minutes

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Thursday, September 23, 2021

3:00 PM

Special Called Meeting

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available

- (1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage,
(2) on DCTVChannel23.TV*

Meeting Started At: 3:00 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Rader, Johnson, Patrick, Davis Johnson

Present 2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Jeff Rader
Absent 1 - Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

I. DISCUSSION

ARP Funding Budget

-JR: there was discussion in ERPS committee regarding expansion of mental health efforts as it relates to Public Safety; this will return to committee but is not included in this budget item

-presentation from COO Williams regarding the ARP budget proposal

-Z Williams: mobile crisis nurses will return to either PECS or ERPS regarding that increased allocation

-JR: the 20 flock cameras, could you review and ensure that number complies with the purchase that was made?

-JR: regarding the Belvedere project, do we have any allocation for the further design of those improvements?

Z Williams: out of PECS there was \$150K to get it started

JR: I wanted to make sure that we not end up with a project that was incomplete at Belvedere. If you feel this can be covered then we will move forward.

-Question LJ: regarding nursing for mobile crisis units, is that the only allocation because we have a nursing shortage and other resources that can do mobile crises. Can we do more for those in the mental health realm?

Z Williams: we will be hiring mental health professionals in the Police Department and through the CSB.

-LJ: Is there a social worker or therapist we can hire that go outside of the medical model?

Z Williams: we can have mental health professionals to allow the flexibility to accomplish these goals.

-Question LJ: this could be in the parking lot, but I don't see anything around tourism to keep DeKalb as a destination point. We need to put some funding in tourism, and the support of the arts industry. They have been stricken as a result of COVID. If you could put that in the parking lot it will help business, tourism, advertising, marketing, etc.

Z Williams: excellent points; there are funds remaining, and this is something we'll be discussing in the future. As we continue to take good ideas and as other funding comes we will explore.

-JR: there are resources to address some of those unmet needs

-Question MDJ: regarding mental health professionals, I was assuming that when we were saying nurses, we were talking about mental health professionals. If you have someone to intercede with police in delicate situations, you need professionals to do the kind of work that solely nurses may not be able to do.

Z Williams: they may not be a registered nurse, but they may be a mental health professional that can provide valued assistance. The terminology expands our recruiting base.

-Question RP: for the \$180,000 would it be feasible to have this as money for additional training for police officers to handle mental health issues more effectively?

Z Williams: it's a little of both. We are looking to invest more in training for the officers for someone in crisis; we could have someone who's job is to assist with situations and persons under mental health needs.

JR: someone not identifying as law enforcement could be deployed to help with those needs. The Cahoots program in Oregon has a model, and similar programs elsewhere, one of the characteristics is that there is a different sort of individual than an officer with a badge and sidearm.

-JR: Motion to approve the ARP budget outline and having the remainder of reserves addressed at a later time

MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/28/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Rader

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

Meeting Ended At:3:27 PM

MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Rader

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC