



DeKalb County Government

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

Minutes - Draft

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Thursday, February 18, 2021

12:00 PM

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: 12:00pm

Attendance: All Commissioners Present

I. DISCUSSION

Budget Considerations

Budget Question - The Drug Abuse Fund was cut by (\$91,000). In the time of Covid, seems like this fund needs the money for its programs. The County also funds Community Service Board. Is there any money in that budget to help offset these cuts? Can the County General Fund loan from reserves this amount and have it paid back when courts start meeting again and the revenues that support this fund return to normal?

-Question LCJ: has there been a request or raised concern over this cut?

Z Williams: these requests from the courts have not come up; this is based on revenue funding as a result of courts not being in session. Neither has the Community Services Board raise an inquiry regarding this

Z Williams: the CSB did receive about \$1.6M for CARES funds in May in anticipation of substance abuse; we can expect similar action in the future

-committee does not believe action is needed on this question

Budget Question - Victim Assistance Fund was cut by (\$142,000). For all the same reasons given in #10 above, can the County General Fund loan from reserves this amount and have it paid back when courts start meeting again and the revenues that support this fund return to normal?

-Question LCJ: has there been a request or raised concern over this cut?

Z Williams: these requests from the courts have not come up; this is based on revenue funding as a result of courts not being in session. Neither has the Community Services Board raise an inquiry regarding this

Z Williams: we can also expect federal funding in the near future to help support the Victims Assistance Fund, or organizations that make this aim part of their cafeteria of services.

-committee does not believe action is needed on this question

Budget Question - Can the Board of Commissioners Budget be increased by \$30,000 to fund a study/report on how much County and School System revenues are being lost annually from the various tax abatements from the cities' development authorities and the county development authority? The BOC will hire an outside consultant like Ga Tech or Ga State or a company that does reports for development authorities to prepare the report.

-LCJ: I believe action on this is necessary and would support a study as a foundation to take meaningful action moving forward

-LJ: Do we have funding in Central Staff budget to make this appropriation? If not we can look at mid-year to ask for an increase to do the study. If Rep Margaret's bill gets passed it can help with this study also

-JR: at this point we don't need to add funding, but for now we can consider this w/o additional funding to approve

-LJ: Motion to approve a study measuring the fiscal impact of tax abatement using funding within Central Staff budget pending a scope of work within 30 days for Central Staff to bring this to FAB committee

Second LCJ

Vote: yes unanimous

2020-1638

Creation of a Director and Deputy Director of Operations and Special Projects in the District Attorney's Office -cost \$203K

-MDJ: we should look at bringing this back in mid-year

-Z Williams: our goal is steady as she goes, flat budget. Not looking to use general fund to pay for these items.

We are understanding the need for these positions as a better way to operate in response to COVID. We plan to pay for these positions through funding of federal COVID funds through FY21, with additional federal funding anticipated later to extend this time period; don't see a need to impact via general fund or the DA's budget.

Z Williams: We will also recommend increasing the DA's budget to around \$250K/year in response to the rent discussion

-JR: amend the agenda to make this position time-limited, rather than permanent

2020-1639

Creation of two Victim Advocates in the District Attorney's Major Case Unit

-Z Williams: this is being considered from the DA at mid-year rather than now

-LJ: Mr. COO can you outline the funding we did receive from federal stimulus and how this was spent?

Z Williams: will prepare a scope of the funding received from additional funding sources during COVID and impacts of the FY21 budget

-Discussion of Amendments the administration will prepare

TJ Sigler: amendments to general operating budget - DA's lease \$212K, animal services (Lifeline) increase the shelter contract \$175K, addition of state court positions for district judge and convert 2 positions in state court \$97K, emergency management \$74K, increase in costs for print and mail agreement for property appraisal \$28K, magistrate court \$94K for overtime and additional funding for part time salaries \$220K. Aggregate of \$900K for the General Fund & recurring costs

Non recurring costs: \$1.1M Sheriff's Office (\$600K for jail manager capital lease and \$500K for mold remediation at the jail), additional funding BOH \$230K, Property Appraiser - \$600K street level imagery, mobile assessors field application \$285K, tablets for appraisers \$88K. In aggregate \$2.3M for nonrecurring costs

Question JR: can the nonrecurring expenses be used via CARES funding?

Z Williams: with the BOH funding we should be able to use that; the other items we will review during mid-year to find other sources of funding. Generally these non-recurring costs are not covered under CARES.

-LJ: Can CARES funding be used for mold remediation for the jail?

Z Williams: we've spent \$5M on HVAC throughout the systems on CARES funding. For the jail, this is to address current mold issues present today. Administration has worked with Sheriff and a provider to replace HVAC in the jail at no additional funding to the County. There may be other federal funding available as well, and we will review this first before we go to the general fund.

TJ Sigler: after we finalize details we will provide a breakdown to the BOC

TJ Sigler: recurring and nonrecurring costs were done using both projections for future costs/expenses and actions applied to alter the budget

-budget amendment will be available by Monday to review and approve the budget amendment

-Question JR: are there any capital projects that were planned to be funded this year that are not being funded this year?

Z Williams: no, we will ensure capital commitments made in the past rollover to this FY

Meeting Ended At: 1:08PM

MOTION was made that this agenda item was adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Rader, Member Johnson, Member Cochran-Johnson

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC