



DeKalb County Government

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

Draft - Minutes

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

3:30 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: 4:01 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Rader, Cochran-Johnson, Johnson, Terry, Patrick

Present 3 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Jeff Rader, and
Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

I. MINUTES

2021-3149 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the September 23, 2021 Special Called Finance, Audit,
and Budget Committee

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

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Rader

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

2021-3181 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the September 28, 2021 Finance, Audit, and Budget
Committee

MOTION was made by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Johnson

II. DISCUSSION

Outside Audit Annual Report

-JR: Unfortunately our outsider auditor could not be present because of a conflict but what I'd like to do, For the next meeting, if we could receive that report from Mauldin and Jenkins, then our Independent Internal Audit Office could review, provide commentary and translation any areas they found to be of interest and give an opportunity for the Commissioners to ask questions. In particular the audit report and management letter, which is intended to identify any areas of improvement of audit operations. Ms. Lockett, does this something you could do?

Y Lockett: Absolutely we will be prepared to do that.

Commissioner Rader: Request Office of independent Internal Audit to review Outside Audit Report and provide commentary and overview of Report at Next FAB

Sanitation Loan

-information provided by Treasurer Atkins

-Question JR : How much of that incremental revenue associated with tipping fees is can be devoted to extinguishing this debt verses incremental revenue needed for future capital improvements and operating costs? Are we going to have to devote any of the incremental revenue to newly emerging costs?

-Z Williams: The term will be a key indicator, whether it's a 5 year or 10 year payback.

-T Hutchinson: The anticipated revenue from landfill fees per year that will generate a projected \$10.5 Million, almost \$11 Million. That will be a total of \$81. The base fee will be \$65 for 1 ton. When we look environmental and regulatory fees, it comes out to \$81.25. The projected revenue will be almost \$11 Million per year.

JR: so this \$11 Million will be to cover this loan, and the additional will be to build a fund balance?

T Hutchison: That is correct.

Question JR: How much would you like to reserve for non-debt service related purposes?

T Hutchinson: I have not reviewed that yet, I will be happy to come back once we reviewed that.

Z Williams: We can provide that, and do the math to determine how much will be set aside for future capital, post closure and allocated for retiring this debt. We are still fine tuning our recommendation, one debate increasing the fee from \$81 to \$100. T Hutchinson: We are also proposing increasing the rates at transfer stations also,

Question JR: The increase for transfer fees will be for commercial customers? How would they be able to do that?

T Hutchinson: Everyone has to establish a commercial account and provide a DeKalb County business license.

LCJ: This is a good start. I'd like to also see discussion on the transfer fee increase. Also we've had discussion of the bulk pickup fees we are charging. There is substantial potential for growth there as well as the harvesting of natural gas that is emitted and ensuring we have the best possible partners. I wouldn't like to see us go higher than \$81.25 especially for residents using the landfill using for bulk items. I think that's a substantial increase because the base will be \$65 we're looking at a 20% environmental and a 5% regulatory thing is that correct?

T Hutchinson: That is correct as to the proposed rate however that is for one ton, up to that limit There is minimum fee of \$16.50, that rate will also be proposed to be raised.

-LCJ: I would like to see a chart of all areas we plan to increase fees, what the existing fees are and the estimated revenue that will be generated and the plan for payment of the debt service.

JR: I agree with that idea to come up with a full chart of accounts, fees and any benchmarks. I would like to see a reducing of the amount of the minimum load from 1/2 ton to a 1/4 ton. It wouldn't affect the occasional users but once you get over a quarter of a ton you start increase in cost.

-LJ: I would like to see this plan in writing. We have consider bulk and tree debris pickup at residential homes, all these fees add up and it could become overwhelming. Ms. Hutchinson please have this as well.

Z Williams: we had these very conversations. Our approach for the charts would be a sequenced recommendation; the money is in the tipping fees; we have a lot of room for movement there.

-Question RP: I agree something written would be very helpful to see. My concern is what is necessary to modernize the department, what do you need to meet this next level of innovation? What technology component can we use to increase residential engagement and department efficient, maybe an app to show where their pick up is or something along those lines.

-T Hutchinson: We currently have GPS on the trucks and our internal supervisors have that app on their phones. For example, special pickups, we use apps such as WAZE to route pickups. When residents upload pictures of requests our drivers can see those, they will also upload pictures once pick us are complete.

-LCJ: I would like to see, as an incentive, a pay raise for this department. Requests a proposed pay schedule; I think we can afford to increase pay. Mr. COO what is your thoughts on salary increases for sanitation?

Z Williams: The CEO from day 1 has recognized the contribution from Sanitation. In 2017 the Board approved the raising of pay, followed by pay increases virtually every year; this includes in 2020 we recognized Sanitation should be a front line pay recipient. That equated to a 12% pay increase for that year, followed by the incentive bonus in 2021. The administration has demonstrated the desire to pay a competitive wage; I know for a fact discussions of pay increases will continue as we look into future years, Sanitation will be among the top as we evaluate what can and cannot be done.

-LCJ: Are you saying a \$15 minimum wage?

Z Williams: Yes this is for any employee in DeKalb County

-LCJ: Ms. Hutchinson could you speak to how the number of \$15/hour and around \$33,000/year compares to other departments and surrounding municipalities?

-T Hutchinson: This does compare with other jurisdictions. We are the only comprehensive solid waste program in the state of Georgia; many others are private or use us. We are competitive when compared to the private sector, who often also uses temporary workers who are paid around \$10/hour.

-LCJ: Thank you. I want to give credit where it's due, and I look forward to the day when we get ourselves in order with

proper fees. We need to find ways to move towards customer service base that allows us to delivery at a high capacity. I know folks don't mind paying more for excellent services but I don't want to see us have a poor working class in DeKalb. I implore many people in this conversation to live off \$33,000/year

-Z Williams: we would look forward to hearing this in FAB or PWI; this conversation would be great to present the data. There have been a lot of steps that have been put in place over the years to provide for progression of these employees, additionally as we have automated, we've encouraged employees train and learn how to use new trucks and department technology.

-JR: we will look forward to see you all back with charts with fees, and benchmarks against them. Also discussion of fund balance and the fees and budgetary part in FAB. I will defer to Commissioner Cochran-Johnson on the operational part of it.

-Z Williams: we'll be ready

III. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items:

2021-3081

Commission District(s): ALL

CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 988895 Print & Mail Services, Electronic Billing Presentment and Data Processing (Annual Contract With 4 Options To Renew): for the Department of Finance-UCO to be used by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM), Public Works-Sanitation and the Peachtree DeKalb Airport. This contract consists of providing customized bill formatting, print and mail services, hosting the County's water and sewer portal and other miscellaneous statements to citizens and businesses. Awarded To Level One, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$576,138.00.

MOTION was made by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/26/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Johnson

-information provided by Director Matelski

-Question JR: So this includes the envelopes but not the printing and mailing?

J Matelski: This includes the printing and mailing as well.

-Question JR: So this is an extension of term?

D McNabb: It would be an extension of term but costs are associated with that extension.

-Question JR: When we adopt a new enQuesta system there will be another bid for those services?

J Matelski: it is all included in the enQuesta system regarding the partnerships. This is going to be a complete solution within enQuesta.

-Question JR: Will that turn this into a sole source for these services for the billing system?

J Matelski: As long as we continue to render these services that is correct we would continue with this vendor.

-LCJ: I would like to hear more about this system as it is being implemented.

J Matelski: Absolutely; CFO McNabb and I will work to provide a presentation. I can assure you this is a modernization of a system, As we move towards more electronic billing it will lower our costs, better for the environment and everything else. We are trying to accommodate everyone as we move towards an automated approach

-Question LCJ: I also look forward to the savings being generated here; why can't we have a system that automatically generates bills? I think we need to have a study on where to save money, including for technology as well.

2021-3124

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Participant Fines Grant Fund Account for INSPIRE Family Treatment Court up to \$150,000.

MOTION was made by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/26/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

-information provided by Colet Odenigbo, Valencia Breedlove - Juvenile Court

2021-3125

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Participant Program Fees Grant Fund Account for INSPIRE Family Treatment Court up to \$150,000.

MOTION was made by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 10/26/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

-information provided by Colet Odenigbo, Valencia Breedlove - Juvenile Court -item heard together in committee with agenda item 2021-3124

Meeting Ended At:4:58 PM

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

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC