



DeKalb County Government

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

Minutes - Draft

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

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: 3:46PM

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

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

I. MINUTES

2022-1871 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the June 28, 2022 Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee

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

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

2022-1903 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the July 7, 2022 Special Called Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee

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

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

II. APPOINTMENT INTERVIEW

[2022-1111](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Appointment to the Oversight Committee of the Office of the Independent Internal Audit - [[[CANDIDATE]]].

This agenda item was no official recommendation

-interview conducted by the FAB Committee to Ms. Gloria Gray

III. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items:

[2022-1743](#) Commission District(s): All
C - Cancellation of Contract No. 1224752 for the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Juvenile Court. Consists of procuring substance abuse counseling and test services for at risk County youths. Awarded to Family Children First, LLC dba Georgia Hope LLC. Cancellation of Contract ONLY.

MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 7/26/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by CPO Horner, Keisha Jones - Juvenile Court

-Question JR: do you have another vendor from a prior selection process that you could resort to?

K Jones: we do have another vendor that is able to provide services. This grant ends on September 30, so we needed to make sure we move forward as quickly as possible

2022-1786

Commission District(s): ALL
REN - Cooperative Agreement for Facility Maintenance Solutions
Contract No. 1262442: for use by the Sheriff's Office. This contract consists of piggybacking off the competitively let Statewide Contract (SWC) No. 99999-SPD0000154-0001 for preventative maintenance services for the County Jail. Awarded to: CGL Facility Management LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$939,741.39.

MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 7/26/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by CPO Horner, Chief Akies - Sheriff's Office

-Question JR: why are we going month-to-month for this?

-C Horner: The Sheriff's Office is in the process of a new solicitation; this contract would be month to month until a new contract would be put in place

-additional information provided by Chief Akies

-Question LCJ: it looks as though we're spending \$156,000 a month in facilities and preventive maintenance services. This amount is a lot of money. What preventative maintenance services are taking place monthly?

-response provided by Chief Akies

-Question LCJ: have we cured the mold remediation problem?

R Akies: that is still part of ongoing maintenance, along with other water intrusion maintenance

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

2022-1837

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
A Resolution by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, to make Amendments to the County's Debt Management Policy

MOTION was made that this agenda item be recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 7/26/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Dr. Obeng

-Question MDJ: is Central Staff on the committee to select the financial advisor?

Dr. Obeng: We will be having conversations with the Administration to determine the necessary parties to be included

-MDJ: I don't think that would be appropriate, because I don't think the information they would be gathering would be independent; perhaps Central Staff could provide in writing as to how they perceive their role in this

-response provided by Dr. Obeng

-JR: we will have this on our agenda again at the next meeting after fleshing out these details

-JR: at a previous presentation of financial statements, the committee asked for identification of financial anomalies from the financial statements be presented in conjunction with the finance director to inform the committee on those anomalies that would be more of a focus area. Have you begun that process?

Dr. Obeng: that's part of what's on our agenda to have with the Finance Director to discuss this week or next week hopefully for our topics of discussion

-JR: this is on the BOC agenda to come back in 30 days, so we will keep this on the agenda to be heard at our next FAB meeting

IV. DISCUSSION

Midyear Budget Amendments

Public Defender

-information provided by Public Defender Claudia Saari

-Question LJ: what is the increase asked?

C Saari: it depends upon where attorneys are in the particular pay classification range. The pay classification system DeKalb has does not match Fulton - that is the current issue we are working through. We compete with the Fulton County office for well qualified attorneys.

-Question LJ: can you send us what the last salary amounts were in DeKalb? I'd like to see a comparison. Regarding ARP funds, we invested some because there was a backlog. Did those attorneys leave?

-C Saari: they are now permanent positions; I can tell you it's difficult to recruit attorneys with salaries at the ARPA levels; the market is hard and we may have to readjust and pivot regarding extra help with backlog and the courts

-Question LJ: will new attorneys coming in move into those positions with established salaries?

C Saari: I am trying to bring in more experienced attorneys

-Question LCJ: we don't have a specific ask?

C Saari: my ask in the midyear budget was additional \$775,000. But I learned today that I might have additional salary savings, so that number may go down based on the updated numbers.

-Question TT: it sounds like we'll get a more detailed proposal once we get the salary savings. Other than salary is there anything else you're hearing from attorneys or other recruits that we should be doing?

-response provided by Public Defender Saari

-Question TT: is there additional court times in the evenings - is there a strategic plan for clearing the backlog quicker than what it would take during the normal course?

-response provided by Public Defender Saari

-Question TT: regarding the court backlog, is there a paradigm that exists for retired lawyers, judges, those with legal experience - can we ask our community and those that have the experience to do the job, that we could be asking our own residents to help?

C Saari: there's always pro bono services. Most judges staffing those particular divisions are senior judges

-Question TT: is there a situation where there's a case that can't be heard because there's not enough hours?

C Saari: we can only try 1 case at a time, so yes the more lawyers you have the more you can do. That's why we will be trying to utilize more ARPA funds to aid in this effort

-Question TT: should we be considering additional grant funds to organizations that seek to get those volunteers to help? If we support them in addition to what you're asking that would create a net benefit?

C Saari: the challenge with those organizations is they don't do criminal defense work - they focus more on civil work

-MDJ: I'd like to tip my hat off to the Public Defender's office. They are very much underfunded when you compare them with district attorney offices. I'm in support of their request - if we can get the money, I'm in favor of getting it

-TT: I totally agree; I also think we should have the same context when we talk about the eviction court

-information provided by COO Williams

-JR: Mr. Williams how will you present those budget amendments to committees of jurisdiction?

-response provided by COO Williams

-Z Williams: mid-August seeking the adoption of the budget, and simultaneously seeking a proposal for the ARP budget. I see those 2 activities moving in tandem over the next 30 days

-JR: I would also encourage members of committees to bring forward proposals from Commissioners as well as the constitutional offices

-LJ: please keep us posted on the opioid settlement Mr. Williams

Meeting Ended At: 5:01PM

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

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC