



# DeKalb County Government

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

## Minutes

### ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee

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Tuesday, March 1, 2022

2:15 PM

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*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: 2:17 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Terry, Rader, Davis Johnson

**Present**            2 - Commissioner Ted Terry, and Commissioner Jeff Rader

**Absent**             1 - Commissioner Steve Bradshaw

#### I. MINUTES

**2022-1290**        Commission District(s): All  
Minutes for the February 15, 2022 Employee Relations and Public Safety Committee Meeting

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

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Terry, and Commissioner Rader

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Bradshaw

#### II. DISCUSSION

DeKalb Health & Wellness Rates for 2022

*-information provided by Director Larry Jacobs on the County's life insurance plans*

*-information provided by Brett Haywood of Buck Consulting*

*-Question JR: did we look at subsidizing the basic life insurance for first responders?*

*L Jacobs: that benefit for basic life is relatively inexpensive; we can certainly look at further subsidizing as the County picks up the lion's share of that. But we can run a study of what that would look like for first responders. We are asking today of the committee to approve Hartford of the County's long term care provider per our recommendation*

*-Question JR: I'd like to see the numbers you are discussing on paper. If you would look at demonstrating the most efficient of guaranteeing a life insurance benefits to public safety & first responders, and then if you would break out the first responder benefit of it. I would like to see how those numbers break out before establishing a different benefit category*

*-Question TT: what positions are covered under first responders for the County?*

*L Jacobs: HR may provide a better answer, but Police and Fire; those that respond to an emergency situation. This is a bit different from sworn officers*

*-Question TT: this wouldn't cover our EMS & EMT workers?*

*L Jacobs: correct*

*-TT: I agree with Commissioner Rader I would like to see more numbers on this as well. We may want to expand the definition to front-line workers in the aftermath of COVID*

*-TT: Central Staff please work with us to do a special called meeting to discuss Landed. Let's get a special called meeting on the calendar next week to discuss Landed with Director Jacobs*

*-discussion of the Landed program discussed by Director Jacobs. This program will be rolling out on Monday, 3/7/2022*

*-TT: we have had several discussions on this with the commissioners. I would love to give the Administration the green light to move forward*

*Z Williams: we have had the conversations and are comfortable with moving this forward. There is no cost to the County.*

*-TT: once those initial presentations are done and employees learn about it, please report back on it in a couple of months to see how things are going*

*-Question MDJ: we discussed this in Senate, regarding public safety and the homes. One of the roadblocks we ran into is the quality of homes we could offer. Many of the homes required substantial renovation; that was a roadblock.*

*-TT: I had a meeting with the Atlanta Apartment Association last week, and they mentioned that 90% of the apartments in the County are full. There is opportunity to get public safety personnel as courtesy officers at some of those locations.*

DeKalb American Red Cross

*-information provided by the DeKalb American Red Cross: Jay Lawrence, Terri Badour, Carla Maton, Patrick Seager, Kathleen Innes*

*-Question TT: regarding your internal capacity to respond in case management situations, what you're looking for is resident-based assistance to help give them more time when displaced*

*-Question MDJ: regarding temporary housing, what is that time frame that you consider 'temporary'?*

*C Maton: we work with families for 30 to 45 days. Within that time frame, we are still seeing the need. After that time frame, when families have the recovery plan in place, we loosen the communication with them*

*-Question MDJ: the map shows different areas of DeKalb being affected more. Is that due to the number of apartment units in those areas? Are they more so single detached homes?*

*J Lawrence: we respond to more single family fires; but residents of apartments are a far greater percentage. This is where much of the fire responses are.*

*P Seager: I'm not sure we know the specific reasons for those fires. It could be a myriad of reasons*

*-Question MDJ: is there any particular time of year that you see more fires than less?*

*P Seager: yes, that happens when the weathers starts turning cooler; fires increase around October. Those numbers drop around the summer. A lot of the winter fires are due to space heaters, fireplaces, etc.*

*-Question MDJ: it seems that you all do not collect data as to reasons for fires, the number, who is affected, etc. is there any entity that you know of that collects that data in conjunction with what you're doing?*

*P Seager: We work with the DeKalb Fire chief; they provide us data on the number of fires, and we see how we can build capacity in those areas, and provide awareness to the community. They may have that additional data internally*

*J Lawrence: we don't get into the cogs; we help people and that's our job*

*TT: I'm sure that Chief Fullum has some answers in that regard. If we don't address that today we can at the next ERPS*

*-Question JR: the fire chief and fire marshal should provide that information. When we do discuss this more in-depth, I would like to know more about the efficacy of our interior code compliance, to ensure the operators of these housing units maintain the housing code requirements. I would like to see our interior code compliance ordinance fully implemented, which has an effect on the fires that we have seen. When staff does return to discuss in committee please discuss the incidents identified fire hazards, such as smoke detectors, wires, space heaters, and other fire risks, and its enforcement through our interior code compliance ordinance.*

*TT: having an ordinance without an active inspection regimen essentially means that nothing happens. That may be a PECS issue as well since the Planning Department may be involved in that.*

*TT: regarding smoke alarms, the new fire code requires smoke alarms, a fire alarm, and a sprinkler system for apartment homes. Could you all speak to the efficacy of a smoke detector and how it saves lives?*

*P Seager: we know that statistically having an active smoke alarm saves lives*

*J Lawrence: what we really want is to not have a fire at all; but smoke alarms are key and have 10 year batteries in many cases. They are vital. But I can't comment on their efficacy vs the sprinklers*

*-TT: regarding coming back to the rapid housing, Director Mitchell please speak about the coordination with the Red Cross, your workers, the waitlist situation etc.*

*-information provided by Director Mitchell*

*-TT: let's stay in touch over the next few months. I appreciate the team for working in this*

#### FY 2022 Department Budget

##### Police

*- Not heard in Committee*

##### Fire

*-TT: when we discuss the Fire budget, let's discuss smoke alarms, some of the work we're doing with Red Cross, and some of the things we've discussed in committee today*

##### E-911

*- Not heard in Committee*

### III. AGENDA ITEM

*New Agenda Items:*

[2022-1075](#) Commission District(s): ALL  
SWC - Statewide Contract for Public Safety Two-Way Radios: for use by Police Services (PS). Consists of purchasing off the Statewide Contract (SWC) No. 99999-SPD-NVPWA06913-0004 for the purchase of Motorola APX 6500 Portable Radios. Awarded to: Motorola Solutions, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$173,466.60.  
**MOTION was made by Jeff Rader, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 3/8/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Terry, and Commissioner Rader

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Bradshaw

*-information provided by Chief Ramos*

[2022-1191](#) Commission District(s): ALL  
REN - Aviation Fuel for Police Helicopters (Annual Contract - 1st Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): Contract No. 1236114 for use by the Department of Public Safety/Police Services (PS). This contract consists of purchasing aviation fuel for police helicopters. Awarded to: Perry Brothers Aviation Fuels LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$75,000.00.  
**MOTION was made by Jeff Rader, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 3/8/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Terry, and Commissioner Rader

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Bradshaw

*-information provided by Chief Ramos*

2022-1209

Commission District(s): ALL

REN - Uniforms for Public Safety Personnel (Annual Contract - 1st Renewal of 4 Options To Renew): Contract Nos.: 1244307, 1244308, 1244309, and 1244310 for use by Police Services, E911 and the Marshal's Office. These contracts consist of the purchase of work uniforms. Awarded to: NAFECO, Galls LLC, Dana Safety Supply, and Smyrna Police Distributors, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,408,000.00.

**MOTION was made by Jeff Rader, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 3/8/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Terry, and Commissioner Rader

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Bradshaw

*-information provided by Chief Ramos*

*-Question JR: the majority of this is coming from General Fund rather than the Police Fund?*

*C Horner: I have reexamined the recommendation form for Police Services, and it does look like its coming from the Police Fund, and not General Fund. It was an error on the agent's part and we will submit a substitute to correct by the end of the week*

*-JR: motion to approve substitute correcting the source of the funds*

Meeting Ended At: 3:38PM

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

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Terry, and Commissioner Rader

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Bradshaw

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Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC