



DeKalb County Government

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

Minutes - Draft

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Thursday, January 27, 2022

1:00 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: 1:02 PM

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

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

I. DISCUSSION

FY22 Proposed Budget - Constitutional Offices

Clerk of Superior Court

-information from Clerk DeBerry

-D DeBerry: my budget increase is due to a grant that we applied for; a large portion of my ask will be covered by the grant

-information of grant process provided by Judge Jackson

Superior Court

-information of grant process provided by Judge Jackson

-Question JR: do you anticipate expending the \$2M state award in 2022?

Judge Jackson: yes we do; 1 application was submitted on behalf of Superior Court, Sheriff, Clerk of Superior, District Attorney

-Question LJ: regarding the grant, are you asking the Board to approve the grant part of the budget, or does it need to be approved before we do the budget?

Judge Jackson: timing wise, the grant needs to be approved.

-information on the grant provided by LeNora Hawkins Ponzo

-Question LJ: the only ask you have for us is the \$376,000?

L Hawkins Ponzo: The only ask related to the \$2M grant, yes

-Question LJ: out of the \$2M, is there any funding in there for mental health or victims witness assistance?

Judge Jackson: they have tightened the reins on the permissible uses of these funds from the State. We could not ask for that in that particular \$2M ask. If we are to have any funding for mental health, we are being encouraged to look to our County and not the State

-LJ: we don't have those wrap-around services that go along with this type of grant; we have to be holistic when approaching issues like this; that's just an observation on the situation

-Question TT: regarding the grant, what portion of the grant is for the Sheriff's department?

L Ponzo: includes funding for 40 reserve officers

-Question LJ: how should we proceed with the time sensitive grant?

JR: if there is a grant acceptance resolution to be considered by the BOC, I would hope that it can be walked on during our COW meeting

-LJ: Motion to recommend acceptance of the State ARPA funding for the criminal justice system

Second LCJ

Vote: yes unanimous

-JR: a formal item is anticipated to be developed to be included in the agenda presentation next week at the BOC COW meeting. From there we can consign that to our consent agenda if the BOC agrees

Public Defender

-information provided by Claudia Saari

-C Saari: we are requesting that you approve the CEO's recommendation for us; our big ask for our budget is a joint request to provide additional personnel for a pre-trial justice initiative.

-Question JR: this request is currently included in the CEO's recommendation?

C Saari: yes

-Question JR: there are certain divisions in court that do hold court outside of normal court hours?

C Saari: that's correct; our lawyers work on Saturdays as well; this will extend the availability of that representation to those hours. We would have to have the conversation on whether to staff Sunday's.

-Question LJ: is there any state grants similar to what our courts are receiving to help supplement this?

C Saari: For the misdemeanors no. Additional information provided by Ms. Saari on 1 additional attorney to help with the backlog of serious felonies

-LJ: we may want to look at legislative resolution in the future - it is so restrictive to help people and grants for all issues within the justice and there is picking and choosing between misdemeanors and felonies

Sheriff

-Question LCJ: where are we with the identification of these funds?

Z Williams: the Sheriff and I have discussed evaluating the capital outlays and others. It will take more time to understand the contracted/personnel services

-information from Chief Akies

-Question MDJ: many of our county buildings are old and there is a need to how we should address these issues. There are challenges that we can meet; if you are recruiting I would take a pass

Z Williams: I want us all to take away from this conversation, related to capital outlays. It will be my recommendation we may want to put these in a separate account to ensure those funds are invested in what we are committed to paying for. We want to ensure we have a jail that the Sheriff and Chief can be proud of

-JR: we look forward between you our administration and Central Staff to understand these gaps and close it. There may be other resources that the Administration can potentially offer regarding addressing your staffing needs and other issues. We'd like to make sure that we fully understand the scope of the annual budgetary needs as well as capital needs that need to be managed over a longer period of time, and what other mechanisms may be available. I will consult with parties to determine if we need to do a special work session on this; we need to reconcile those perspectives with as much information in hand; we will work before that time of having you back to address that understanding

-Sheriff Maddox: we are asking for \$90,707,622 as opposed to the \$83,535,466 for various security needs and jail upgrades

-TT: as part of the budget process we will have other departments in the ERPS committee discuss their budgetary needs; if the Sheriff could come and discuss retention and recruitment strategies and employee relations at our next ERPS meeting

-JR: we will discuss that with staff

Tax Commissioner

-information provided by Nicole Golden

-\$40,000 requested for increased security services for deputies - we have reserved Sheriff's deputies that provide security in our office. With the change in gun laws, a deputy is required to screen for weapons. The \$40,000 is for an increase in pay to these deputies

-\$186,000 approximately requested for 5 positions to be funded to continue to provide our services. 3 staff members are for our office and 2 positions for our mobile unit.

-\$216,000 in requested for merit increases we are asking to be approved in the FY22 budget to ensure pay adjustments from 2021 are paid to 2022

-total cost for \$442,243, and that includes the \$216,000 that we may or may not need

-Commissioner Rader requests Staff and administration review this and look over these issues to consider at an upcoming meeting

-Commissioner Rader requests Central Staff circle back to discuss if an additional meeting is needed to discuss the variance issues, additional departments, and if any commissioner discussions warrant individual asks in their budget amendment requests

II. AGENDA ITEM

2022-1030

Commission District(s): All Commission District

A resolution (1) authorizing the issuance and sale by the County of its Tax Anticipation Notes (Federally Taxable) due December 15, 2022 in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$140,000,000 (TAN) for the purposes of obtaining a temporary loan to pay current expenses during the 2022 calendar year -- not to exceed \$70,000,000 of which will be loaned to the County's Watershed Department as a bridge until the County receives proceeds from its new money water and sewerage revenue bonds expected to be issued later in 2022 and (2) ratifying and approving the appointment of Piper Sandler & Co. to serve as placement agent to the County in connection with the TAN.

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 2/8/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by COO Williams, CFO McNabb

-D McNabb: we believe we are able to take our cash flows, take the original \$70M and fund our capital projects out of that. Then when we issue the long-term bonds, repay those tax anticipation notes effectively to the General Fund, and then allow the General Fund to use the money in the second half of the year for the normal operating needs. That will allow us to basically allow us to issue the \$70M twice. The only risk is if we're not able to issue the long-term bonds for some reason, when they are currently scheduled to be issued. Then we might have to issue another General obligation TAN in June or July in order to fund the delay in tax revenues. This would save us \$370,000. Commissioner we are proud that we were able to take your idea and turn it into a workable solution.

-JR: thank you for working on the issue; it seems like a reasonable accommodation

-LCJ: I'm happy to hear that we are moving forward with a \$70M TAN

-LJ: motion to approve substitute to the original item to authorize \$70 million in tax anticipation notes for Watershed infrastructure improvements

Second LCJ

Vote: yes unanimous

-D McNabb: the final numbers will be substituted and provided to the Board before it comes before you in 2 weeks

-Commissioner Rader requests that the final document is circulated to commissioners in advance

Meeting Ended At: 2:40PM

MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, 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