



DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, GA 30030

Minutes - Draft

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Commissioner Ted Terry (Chairperson)

Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

Commissioner Chakira Johnson

Thursday, February 13, 2025

10:00 AM

1300 Commerce Dr. 5th Floor

Special Called Meeting

Meeting Started At: 10:10AM

Attendance: Commissioners M. Long Spears, C. Johnson, L. Bolton, M. Davis Johnson, N. Massiah, and R. Patrick

Present 2 - Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, and Commissioner Chakira Johnson
Not Present 1 - Chairperson Ted Terry

I. DISCUSSION

Proposed FY2025 Budget Priorities - Constitutional Offices

Juvenile Court

Questions:

- 1) CJ: Ankle monitors? (Chief Judge responded)
- 2) NM: Funds for treatment-for alcohol or for drugs? (Chief Judge responded)
- 3) NM: Adding enterprise technician – Do we have salary base? (Chief Judge responded)
- 4) NM: What kind of tuition reimbursement? (Chief Judge responded)
- 5) LB: When was the last time funding was provided? (Chief Judge responded)

- 6) LB: Item #1 – Do you have estimated amount? Item #3 – When was most recent raise for staff? (Chief Judge responded)
- 7) LB: Tuition reimbursement – Is it new or do you have money to add to that? Are there measures in place to ensure county gets benefit from employees receiving reimbursement? (Chief Judge responded)
- 8) MDJ: \$2500 per employee? \$2500 average for increase for how many employees? (Chief Judge responded)
- 9) RP: Need for enterprise tech – Does admin staff help? (COO Williams responded)
- 10) RP: Countywide refresh – Does that not include Juvenile refresh schedule? (COO Williams responded)

Property AppraiserQuestions:

- 1) CJ: Pay and class study – is this done internally? (Chief Appraiser responded)
- 2) CJ: How is retention? (Chief Appraiser responded)
- 3) MDJ: Comparative chart showing how much employees paid in other counties -Would like to see what salaries are. Do you believe retention is solely linked to salary? (Chief Appraiser responded)
- 4) MDJ: What are your # of vacancies? Are benefits the same? (COO Williams responded)
- 5) MDJ: How many employees do you hire/have? Is it sufficient? (Chief Appraiser responded)
- 6) MDJ: RE House Bill 581 – How often are appraisals done?
- 7) NM: AI application – Any assessment about reduction in staff? Request for cost analysis
- 8) RP: AI good component – What is the “double-check” process? Human double checking? Noting in state law that says a person needs to do this? (Chief Appraiser responded)
- 9) RP: Enhanced benefit package – What does that look like? Is there a way to compare to other counties? What is CEO’s perspective? (COO Williams responded)
- 10) MDJ: Cost associated with AI, comparison with all counties (COO Williams responded)
- 11) MLS: Recognizing AI Challenges: House Bill 581 if Board chooses to opt out does that affect Property Appraisal? (Atty Phillips responded)
- 12) NM: Does that include notice requirements? Remain the same? (Chief Appraiser responded)
- 13) MDJ: Why emphasis on bill if it doesn’t matter based on budget? (Chief Appraiser responded)

Solicitor GeneralQuestions:

1. MLS: What is cost for Project Manager? (Solicitor General responded)
2. MLS: Request that information RE PM position, Camp Circle etc. be emailed (Solicitor General responded)
3. CJ: Other municipalities using case management system? (Solicitor General responded)
4. NM: Cost of vehicle? Need storage for paper files until integrated into new system? How long do you keep files? (Solicitor General responded)
5. RP: How much time saved with new CMS system? Is county working toward central storage plan? (COO Williams responded)

Public Defender

Questions:

1. *CJ: How quickly can you fill positions? Good pool to hire from? (Interim PD L. Delan responded)*
 2. *LB: Ask without benefits – How attractive will positions be? (Interim PD L. Delan responded)*
 3. *MLS: Digital copies request (Interim PD L. Delan responded)*
 4. *RP: Do the 2 additional positions bump up from 72 to 74 employees? (Interim PD L. Delan responded)*
- Magistrate and State Court

Questions:

1. *CJ: Bottom line amount that is being requested? Including benefits? (Chief Judge responded)*
2. *RP: Do we have court fees that can offset cost? (Chief Judges & COO Williams responded)*
3. *RP: Is there court calendar for the public to see? For all courts? (Chief Judge responded)*
4. *LB: Regarding open cases – What is percentage of how many are found? What can be done on front end to keep the number down? (Chief Judge responded)*

Bond Resolution Discussion - Water Rate
Discussion deferred to February 18, 2025 COW

II. Agenda Item**District 5**2025-0240

Commission District(s): District 5

A Resolution of The Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County Establishing and Identifying the Roles and Responsibilities of an Independent CIP Auditor to Monitor Implementation of the County's Capital Improvement Program and Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to Fund an Independent CIP Auditor and Necessary Staff

MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 2/25/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Johnson

Not Present: 1 - Chairperson Terry

No further discussion. Item deferred to February 25, 2025 BOC Meeting.

Meeting Ended At: 12:32PM

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC