

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Friday, May 22, 2020

10:00 AM

Live-streamed at <http://lakecounty.tv/>, on Comcast's Channel 18 or 30 (depending on where you live) & AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

F&A Special Committee on COVID-19 Recovery

To comply with social distancing requirements and Governor Pritzker's stay-at-home order, this meeting will be live-streamed at <http://lakecounty.tv/> and on Comcast's network, Channel 18 or 30 (depending on where you live) and AT&T Channel 99.

Public comments are welcomed and encouraged. Public comments received by 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 22, 2020 will be read at the beginning of the meeting under Public Comment in the order they are received. Comments received during the meeting will be held until the end of the meeting. Please note: A total of 30 minutes will be permitted for Public Comment and no more than three minutes per public comment pursuant to the County Board Rules of Order and Operational Procedures. All comments received will be included in the Committee's meeting minutes regardless of whether they are read aloud at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS shall be emailed to CountyBoard@lakecountyil.gov with the following information:

- * Subject Title: F&A Special Committee on COVID-19 Recovery Public Comment
- * Name
- * Street Address (Optional)
- * City, State (Optional)
- * Phone (Optional)
- * Organization, agency, etc. being represented. (If representing yourself, put "Self")
- * Topic or Agenda Item Number followed by Public Comment.

Public with no access to email may leave a message with the County Board Office at 847-377-2300.

1. Call to Order

Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present 5 - Chair Frank, Vice Chair Vealitzek, Member Carlson, Member Clark and Member Pedersen

Others present:

Marah Altenberg, County Board

Dick Barr, County Board

Chris Blanding, Information Technology

Kristy Cechini, County Board Office

Kevin Considine, Lake County Partners

Mary Ross Cunningham, County Board

Mike Danforth, County Board

Arthur Gass, Black Chamber of Commerce

Gary Gibson, County Administrator's Office

Robert Glueckert, Chief County Assessor

Gunnar Gunnarson, State's Attorney's Office

Sandy Hart, County Board

Jim Hawkins, County Administrator's Office

Carl Kirar, Facilities and Construction Services

Angelo Kyle, County Board

John Light, Human Resources

Ann Maine, County Board

Judy Martini, County Board

Jefferson McMilan-Wilhoit, Health Department

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

Brenda O'Connell, Community Development

Jennifer Serino, Workforce Development

Julie Simpson, County Board

Patrice Sutton, County Board

Arin Thrower, Communications

Cassandra Torstenson, County Administrator's Office

Blanca Vela-Schneider, County Administrator's Office

Eric Waggoner, Planning, Building and Development

Terry Wilke, County Board

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Frank led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Frank reported that staff solicited feedback from Board Members regarding the use of federal COVID-19 funding.

6. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

7. New Business

CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 [20-0687](#)

Minutes from May 15, 2020.

Attachments: [F&A COVID-19 Recovery SC - Minutes 5.15.20 - Final](#)

A motion was made by Member Carlson, seconded by Member Clark, that this minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Frank, Vice Chair Vealitzek, Member Carlson, Member Clark and Member Pedersen

REGULAR AGENDA

7.2 [20-0680](#)

Discussion regarding resident rental assistance needs and possible options.

Cassandra Torstenson, County Administrator's Office, reported on the Community Resources Task Force response efforts regarding COVID-19. The Task Force suggests an initial \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 of CARES funds to be set aside for rental assistance to those directly impacted by the pandemic. Qualifications to receive assistance was reviewed. Using existing providers who have prior experience in providing assistance, will expedite the timing of relief to residents. Brenda O'Connell, Community Development, provided an overview of ServicePoint, a system that allows providers to refer clients to services and properly track allocation of funds.

Discussion ensued regarding utility assistance options, distribution of funds, and organizations who will assist with the distribution of those funds.

The consensus was to provide an initial \$4,000,000 of the CARES funds toward rental assistance.

The Committee discussed rental assistance needs and options.

7.3 [20-0681](#)

Discussion regarding small business needs and possible options.

Arthur Gass, Black Chamber of Commerce, reported on the economic disparities of African Americans and identified the needs of his community.

Jennifer Serino, Workforce Development, reported on the Business and Economic Task Force efforts. The task force met for the first time this week to gather input from members and identify the needs of small businesses with 50 employees or less. The task force has suggested that CARES funding in the amount of \$10,000,000 be set aside to help small businesses. Discussion ensued regarding how other counties are expending funds for recovery.

The consensus of the committee is to set aside \$10,000,000 of CARES funds for small business recovery. The committee acknowledged that there may be a need for additional funding later. The committee indicated it might need to consider offering financial assistance to medium size businesses and visitor attraction sites at a later date.

The committee discussed small business needs and options.

7.4 [20-0683](#)

Guidance to staff.

Jim Hawkins, Deputy County Administrator, reported that the Operations Task Force is working on a plan that will allow the County to safely open its doors. The Budget Impact Task Force is reviewing the impact to the County's budget due to COVID-19. Significant unanticipated costs have been incurred by departments due to the pandemic. Staff is looking for guidance regarding whether the County Board will allocate \$2,000,000 to reimburse a portion of COVID-19 related expenses. Discussion ensued. The consensus was for to direct staff to prepare a resolution for an initial reimbursement amount of \$2,000,000.

Deputy County Administrator Hawkins reported that the guidance received today includes:

- 1. Preparing an immediate response program for rental assistance with \$4,000,000 of CARES funds;*
- 2. Further developing a small business relief package based on today's discussion; and*
- 3. Preparing a resolution for reimbursement of \$2,000,000 for funds expended related to COVID-19 response.*

Deputy County Administrator Hawkins sought guidance regarding food insecurity in Lake County. Staff has researched the topic and is suggesting an initial \$1,000,000 to provide food security. The consensus of the Committee was to increase the amount to \$2,000,000.

Guidance to staff was provided.

8. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter in Executive Session.

9. Public Comment

9.1 [20-0797](#)

Public Comment.

Attachments: [Public Comment 5.22.20.pdf](#)

Arin Thrower, Communications, read a public comment from Jon Altenberg, Vernon Township Supervisor regarding CARES funding.

10. County Administrator's Report

There was no County Administrator's report.

11. Members' Remarks

Member Carlson thanked staff and Board Members in the handling of the pandemic.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 29, 2020

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider.

Respectfully submitted,

F&A Special Committee on COVID-19 Recovery