

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Friday, May 29, 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 29, 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 10:10 a.m.

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

Others present:

Congressman Brad Schneider, State Representative

Marah Altenberg, County Board

Dick Barr, County Board

Chris Blanding, Information Technology

Kristy Cechini, County Board office

Greg Claus, Representative Brad Schneider's Office

Kevin Considine, Lake County Partners

Karen Fox, State's Attorney's Office

Gary Gibson, County Administrator'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

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

Brenda O'Connell, Community Development

Jennifer Serino, Workforce Development

Julie Simpson, County Board

Patrice Sutton, Finance and Administrative Services

Arin Thrower, Communications

Cassandra Torstenson, County Administrator's Office

Blanca Vela-Schneider, County Administrator's Office

Eric Waggoner, Planning, Building and Development

John Wasik, County Board

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 public comments.

5. Chair's Remarks

There were no remarks from Chair Frank.

6. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

7. New Business

REGULAR AGENDA

7.1 [20-0740](#)

Congressional perspective on CARES Act funding: Congressman Brad Schneider.

Congressman Brad Schneider reviewed the parameters in which CARES funds can be expended. The House of Representatives recently passed the HEROES Act that would provide additional stimulus relief, but the bill faces an uphill battle in the Senate. The adverse impact of the pandemic on the economy is substantial and there will be a need to make additional difficult decisions. Discussion ensued.

Congressman Schneider provided an update.

7.2 [20-0741](#)

Discussion regarding Lake County's strategy and budget for CARES Act funds.

Jim Hawkins, reported on staff's efforts in planning and coordinating the use of the \$121,500,000 of CARES funds based on the committee's input over the last two weeks. Staff is working through the application process and developing agreements that clearly define the scope and accountability of partners who will operate the programs.

Five categories of funding have been discussed by staff:

- 1. Direct assistance to residents;*
- 2. Business and economic assistance;*
- 3. Public health assistance;*
- 4. Municipal essential services; and*
- 5. County government essential services.*

Staff is recommends a contingency reserve for a second wave of the virus and/or to fund programs that are providing effective assistance. Chair Frank suggested that staff reach out to municipalities to understand their needs. Discussion ensued regarding how to expend the CARES funds. There is a need to leverage existing entities and agencies to expedite the monies reaching the public quicker.

The Committee discussion funding priorities. Staff is working to expedite the release of some CARES funds to the Lake County community and partnering agencies. Chair Frank discussed the importance in understanding and evaluating the parameters and scope of the needs of each of the categories before making a determination on how the remaining funds will be expended.

Discussion ensued regarding if CARES funds can be used for daycare services. Cassandra Torstenson, County Administrator's Office, reported that the Community Resources Task Force is looking into this issue.

Small Business Recovery Task Force

Jennifer Serino, Work Force Development, reported that the task force is continuing its efforts in developing a program that will help small businesses. The task force is also looking at industries that have the greatest impact to the community.

Financial Assistance Task Force

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office, reported that this task force is working with the State's Attorney's Office and other municipal partners to review CARES Act guidelines. Lake County has received some additional guidance regarding the use of the funds from the United States Treasury. The task force is also monitoring legislation, including the HEROES Act.

Community Resources Task Force

Ms. Torstenson reported that the committee requested that the Community Resources Task Force review the need for utility assistance for renters and homeowners. The task force recommends that \$1,000,000 in CARES funding to be used to provide utility assistance and has identified partner organizations to help run the program. Of the 480 people who called 211 over the last three months, 27 percent sought rental assistance and three percent sought utility assistance. She reported that the use of ServicePoint to monitor funding activities will ensure that funding is properly accounted for and will prevent duplicative payments. Discussion ensued.

The Committee expressed support to provide utility assistance funding.

Lake County's strategy and budget for CARES Act funds was discussed.

7.3 [20-0743](#)

Lake County COVID-19 related expenditures update.

Patrice Sutton, Finance and Administrative Services Director/Chief Financial Officer, reported that through the end of April, Lake County has incurred just under \$1,000,000 of COVID-19 related salary expenses. This does not include time expended by the Health Department. COVID-19-related commodities and contractual expenses are at \$200,000 and are expected to increase significantly. Health Department expenses through May 29, 2020 is nearly \$1,300,000.

Director Sutton explained that Lake County estimates it will incur up to \$15,000,000 in reimbursable CARES Act expenses through the end of the calendar year and another \$1,300,000 in non-reimbursable expenses. It is estimated that the pandemic will result in up to \$57,200,000 in revenue loss. The Committee has directed staff to create a resolution

for \$2,000,000 of reimbursable expenses due to COVID-19. Due to the significant shortfall of funds, difficult operational decisions are being considered by departments.

Departments have already begun reducing their budgets but there is a need to understand what, if any, additional reimbursable funds the County Board is willing to allocate to guide the departments in this year's budget and the planning for fiscal year 2021. Discussion ensued. This issue will be brought to the Financial and Administrative Committee for further discussion.

COVID-19 related expenditures were discussed.

7.4 [20-0742](#)

Proposed resolution by the F&A Special Committee on COVID-19 Recovery authorizing an emergency appropriation in the amount of \$18,000,000 and funded through Lake County's allocation of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Attachments: [CARES Act Funding Emergency Appropriation.pdf](#)

Jim Hawkins, Deputy County Administrator, presented the proposed resolution for the committee's review. Discussion ensued regarding allowing the County Administrator's Office to administer the funds to expedite the process and amending the resolution to increase the funding by \$1,000,000 for utility assistance.

The consensus of the Committee was to amend the resolution and refer it to the Financial and Administrative Committee for its approval.

8. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

9. Public Comment

There were no additional public comments.

10. County Administrator's Report

There was no County Administrator's report.

11. Members' Remarks

There were no additional member comments.

12. Adjournment

The Committee will not meet next week. The next meeting is now scheduled for June 12, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Next Meeting: June 5, 2020 - Meeting Canceled

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider.

Respectfully submitted,

F&A Special Committee on COVID-19 Recovery