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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Health & Human Services Committee Minutes  
Senior Services Tax Levy Part II  
April 10, 2017**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairperson Little called the meeting to order. Those Members present were Ms. Askins, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Whelan, and Chairman Little. A quorum was established with all Members present.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Jess Collins, Tim Hughes, Lesly Wicks of Hope Have of DeKalb County, Inc., Tara Russo of Elder Care Services, and Ellen Rogers and Paul LaLonde of Voluntary Action Center.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Mr. Porterfield, seconded by Mr. Whelan and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda.**

**SENIOR SERVICES TAX LEVY HEARINGS**

Chairperson Little reopened the 2018 Senior Services Tax Levy Hearing at 5:30 p.m. The following agencies presented their 2018 Senior Services Tax Levy Proposals to the Committee:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Service Provided</b>
Hope Haven of DeKalb County, Inc.	\$15,489	Dresser Court Case Mgmt.
Elder Care Services	\$70,000	Elder Abuse, Neglect & Financial Exploitation Investigation & Care Coordination Services
Voluntary Action Center	\$232,225	Meals on Wheels & Transportation

*\*Please note that all Senior Services Tax Levy Proposals are on file in the DeKalb County Administration Office and the DeKalb County Community Action Department and may be made available upon request.*

Chairperson Little closed the 2018 Senior Services Tax Levy Hearing at 6:15 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING: STATE OF ILLINOIS 5311 RURAL/DOWNSTATE OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION**

Ms. Askins moved to opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. to hear comments on DeKalb County's intent to submit to the State of Illinois A Section 5311 Rural/Downstate Operating Assistance Grant Application. Mrs. Emmer seconded.

Voluntary Action Center's Executive Director Ellen Rogers presented herself and spoke in favor of the County submitting the application. She noted that the assistance provided to the residents of DeKalb County though this Grant has proven to be very beneficial.

No other persons presented themselves for the Public Hearing and Mr. Whelan moved to close the Hearing at 6:20 p.m. and Ms. Askins seconded.

**AUTHORIZING TO EXECUTE AND FILE A SECTION 5311 DOWNSTATE OPERATION ASSISTANCE GRANT AGREEMENT**

This application, if approved, provides funding for the County's rural transportation services such as TransVac and MedVac. The County has been applying for these funds for the past thirteen years and these funds are used for services outside the DeKalb/Sycamore/Cortland area. When funds are approved they are passed through the County to the Voluntary Action Center along with all responsibilities and liability. This assistance program combines Federal and State Funds.

**It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Porterfield and it was moved unanimously by voice vote to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF A SPECIAL WARRANTY AS A CONDITION TO RECEIVE SECTION 5311 FUNDS**

When the County applies for Financial Assistance it must also agree to certain conditions. These conditions mainly deal with ensuring that the County would not be in competition with any private transportation service and that union employees of those companies would not be adversely affected by the awarding of the financial assistance.

**It was moved by Mr. Porterfield, seconded by Ms. Askins and it was moved unanimously by voice vote to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.**

**APPLICATION FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

Ms. Ellen Rogers explained to the Committee that every year the Public Transportation Capital Assistance Grant is brought forward in order to apply for funds that are available to offset eligible capital costs required for providing and improving public transportation facilities, rolling stock, equipment and services.

**It was moved by Mrs. Emmer, seconded by Mr, Whelan and it was moved unanimously by voice vote to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.**

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### **AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A HEAVY DUTY BUS FOR TRANSVAC USING 100% FEDERAL GRANT DOLLARS**

Mr. LaLonde shared that back in November 2014, IDOT executed a grant contract with the County to provide a maximum of \$380,000 for purchasing a 30' heavy duty transit bus by "piggybacking" off the bus procurement contract between Connect Transit (Bloomington-Normal) and New Flyer of USA, Inc. The project was delayed due to several reasons, including formal restructuring at VAC and at IDOT. In February 2017, the County received permission from IDOT to proceed with purchasing a vehicle. During negotiations, it was determined to purchase a 2015 diesel stock bus for \$331,048. Reasons to purchase a pre-built bus rather than ordering the building of a brand new bus include:

- The bus will come at a significant discount. Including warranty, parts, and delivery, this vehicle will come at a savings of \$48,952 – showcasing fiscal prudence to taxpayers.
- New Flyer will be able to deliver the bus within 6-8 weeks from order. A new vehicle would take between 6-8 months at minimum from time order is placed to delivery. Given that the County was originally awarded the grant in 2014, getting a high quality vehicle into TransVAC's operation at a quicker rate is highly desirable.
- New Flyer will offer a 2 year / 50,000 mile extended warranty, which is standard warranty timeframe to brand new builds. This extended warranty will offer extra protection on the investment.
- The bus will be equipped with specs based on the needs of the TransVAC system, including a cold climate package, ADA ramp and tie down systems, front-rear-side destination signs, a bike rack, security camera system, and an operator's assault alarm.
- Though pre-built, the bus the County will receive will have never been put into service and will have been exercised and maintained; the bus will have less than 5,000 miles.

Mr. LaLonde continued that due to VAC's technical experience in such projects, they have been the lead agency on this project. VAC has consistently communicated with County Administration and sought input during the process. In addition, IDOT has been consulted and communicated with during the process.

The cost of the project, which is 100% federally funded, is \$331,048.00. There is no local match requirement from the County.

**It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Ms. Askins and it was moved unanimously by voice vote to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.**

### **ALLOCATION OF SENIOR SERVICES TAX LEVY FUNDS**

It was reiterated that there was \$523,278 requested from the ten agencies for 2018 and that the suggested amount to allocate was \$423,000. It was also reminded that there is \$65-75,000 in reserves that the Committee can decide to dip into if they so choose.

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Mr. Hanson provided an updated spreadsheet to the Committee that they could utilize in order to help them come to a consensus on how to allocate the Tax Levy Funds.

Mr. Reid suggested that they no longer fund KishHealth System Hospice because they now part of Northwestern Medicine and they have more than enough money to fund this program. Mr. Reid also noted that Northwestern is tax exempt and their CEO is paid over a million dollars a year so they should have no issues fund the Hospice program. He reiterated that he feels they should deduct their request and figure out how to allocate it to the rest.

Mr. Porterfield noted that he sympathized with Mr. Reid’s viewpoint but was concerned with what message they would be sending by not funding Hospice. Ms. Askins noted that also thinks that with the expectation that these funds are to be used to help individual’s age-in-place, Hospice isn’t necessarily doing that. Mrs. Emmer noted that he also agreed.

The Committee discussed ways of conveying their message of not funding KishHealth System Hospice in the least insensitive way possible.

Chairman Little asked if the Committee Members wanted to rank the agencies to determine funding or questioned how they wanted to proceed with allocating the funds. Mr. Reid suggested to keep it simple and subtract \$2000 from KishHealth System Hospice and funding \$15,331 out of the reserves and fund the remaining nine organizations at the same amounts as last year. Chairman Little and Mr. Whelan noted that they agreed with Mr. Reid’s suggestion.

Mr. Hanson asked if the Committee would be interested in rounding the allocations up to even amounts. The Committee very willingly agreed.

Therefore, the following allocations were made to these agencies for FY 2018:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>2017 Allocated</b>	<b>2018 Request</b>	<b>2018 Recommend</b>
Funding Start Date	7/1/2016	7/1/2017	7/1/2017
Funding End Date	6/30/2017	6/30/2018	6/30/2018
Barb City Manor	\$9,855	\$13,260	\$10,000
Elder Care Services	\$62,904	\$70,000	\$63,000
Family Service Agency	\$58,726	\$60,000	\$58,800
Fox Valley Older Adult Services	\$61,354	\$85,162	\$61,500
Hope Haven	\$15,329	\$15,489	\$15,400

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KishHealth System Hospice			
Powerful Tools for Care Givers Class	n/a	\$2,268	
Transitions Program	n/a	<u>\$2,640</u>	
Total	\$2,000	\$4,908	\$0
Kishwaukee Family YMCA	\$0		
Silver Sneakers to Music & Splash	n/a	\$2,019	
Silver Sneakers Yoga	n/a	<u>\$1,615</u>	
Total	\$2,019	\$3,634	\$2,000
Opportunity House	\$26,411	\$34,400	\$26,500
Prairie State Legal Services	\$3,154	\$4,200	\$3,200
Voluntary Action Center			
Meals on Wheels	n/a	\$175,000	
Transportation	n/a	<u>\$57,225</u>	
Total	\$182,579	\$232,225	\$182,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$424,331</b>	<b>\$523,278</b>	<b>\$423,000</b>

It was moved by Ms, Askins, seconded by Mrs. Emmer and it was carried unanimously to forward the suggested allocation amounts for the 2018 Senior Services Tax Levy Funds to the full County Board recommending their approval.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Porterfield, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Maureen Little, Chairperson

  
 Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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