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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Health & Human Services Committee Minutes
Senior Services Tax Levy Part II
April 11, 2016**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building’s Conference Room East. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh called the meeting to order and those Committee Members present were Ms. Askins, Ms. Little, Mr. Reid, Mr. Whelan, and Chairperson Haji-Sheikh. Mr. Porterfield arrived at 5:43 p.m. A quorum was established.

Others present were Donna Moulton, Jeremy Perrotta, Lesly Wicks of Hope Have of DeKalb County, Inc., Tara Russo of Elder Care Services, and Ellen Rogers and Leah Jordal of Voluntary Action Center.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh reminded the Committee that they not only had the Senior Services Tax Levy Hearing to finish but they would also be having a Public Hearing for the State of Illinois 5311 Rural/Downstate Operating Assistance Grant Application for the Voluntary Action Center.

SENIOR SERVICES TAX LEVY HEARINGS

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh opened the 2017 Senior Services Tax Levy Hearing at 5:35 p.m. The following agencies presented their 2017 Senior Services Tax Levy Proposals to the Committee:

Agency	Request	Service Provided
Hope Haven of DeKalb County, Inc.	\$15,329	Dresser Court Case Mgmt.
Elder Care Services	\$70,000	Elder Abuse, Neglect & Financial Exploitation Investigation & Care Coordination Services
Voluntary Action Center	\$175,000 ----- \$57,225	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.*

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh closed the 2017 Senior Services Tax Levy Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

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

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh opened the Public Hearing at 6:20 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. 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 through this Grant has proven to be very beneficial.

No other persons presented themselves for the Public Hearing and Chairperson Haji-Sheikh closed the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m.

SECTION 5311 DOWNSTATE OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

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 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.

ACCEPTANCE OF A SPECIAL WARRANT 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 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.

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.

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

SUPPORT FOR THE 2016 TIGER GRANT & FY16 5339(b) GRANTS APPLICATIONS

This will be the fourth year in a row that the City of DeKalb along with DeKalb County and Voluntary Action Center are applying for the TIGER Grant. They are seeking the grant in order procure funding to construct the DeKalb County Transportation Facility Project, a new 83,000 square foot public transportation facility that will drastically improve the mobility and livability of those who use public transportation in the region. In 2012 the County Board passed a resolution that affirmed the donation of 12 acres (more or less) land for the project from the County as well.

In addition to the TIGER Grant there is now a competitive funded 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Faculties Program through the Federal Transit Administration that is also being asked to have the approval of applying for.

It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Ms. Little 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 \$508,906 requested from the ten agencies in 2017 and that the suggested amount to allocate was \$419,000. It was also reminded that there is \$61,195 in reserves that the Committee can decided to dip into if they so choose.

The Committee took their time to deliberate and express how each would like to see this money allocated. Mr. Perrotta, the intern, shared his thoughts on how the money could best be allocated. Mr. Reid and Ms. Askins presented their cases on why the YMCA should be funded this year as opposed to last year. The unsureness of the State Budget Impasse and future State Budget constraints also weighed heavy on the Committee's minds.

There was a consensus from the Committee that they would fund all ten agencies at least at a minimum of last year's allocation amounts with the addition of funding the YMCA this year. In doing that, it would leave an additional \$1,934 left to allocate if the Committee desired to allocate funds at the recommended 2017 level. There then was additional discussions on whether or not to use any reserves for the 2017 allocations.

Mr. Porterfield moved to utilize no reserve funds for the 2017 levy allocations. Ms. Little seconded the motion. Those voting yea were Ms. Little and Mr. Porterfield. Those voting nay were Ms. Askins, Mr. Reid, Mr. Whelan, and Chairperson Haji-Sheikh. The motion failed.

Mr. Reid moved to utilize up to 10% of the \$61,195 reserve fund (\$6,195) for the 2017 levy allocations. Ms. Askins seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll call vote with Ms. Little and Mr. Porterfield opposing.

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With the motion carried to use up to \$6,195 in reserves and having the additional \$1,934 left over from using last year's allocation amounts (with the addition of the YMCA), the Committee then discussed what would be the best way to allocate the remaining \$8,129 to the ten agencies.

The Committee spent the remainder of the time coming up with the best way to allocate the remaining funds. After allocating and rounding the amounts, the Committee ended up only utilizing \$5,331 of their reserves.

Therefore, the following allocations were made to these agencies for 2017:

Agency	2017 Allocation
Barb City Manor	\$9,855
Elder Care Services	\$62,904
Family Service Agency	\$58,726
Fox Valley Older Adult Services	\$61,354
Hope Haven	\$15,329
KishHealth System Hospice	\$2,000
Kishwaukee Family YMCA	\$2,019
Opportunity House	\$26,411
Prairie State Legal Services	\$3,154
Voluntary Action Center	\$182,579
TOTAL	\$424,331

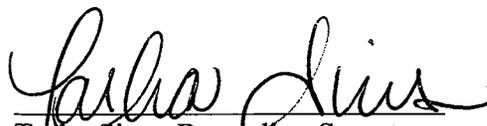
It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Ms. Askins and it was carried unanimously to forward the suggested allocation amounts for the 2017 Senior Services Tax Levy Funds to the full County Board recommending their approval.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Misty Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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