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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Finance Committee Minutes
October 6, 2021**

The Finance Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Wednesday, October, 2021, in the Legislative Center's Gathertorium in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Bagby called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Those Members present were Mr. Scott Campbell, Mr. Bill Cummings, Mr. Steve Faivre, Mr. John Frieders, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Mr. Jim Luebke, and Chairman Tim Bagby. A quorum was established with all seven Members present.

Others present included Brian Gregory, David Berault, Robert Miller, Ellingsworth Webb, Sheila Santos, Kathy Lampkins, Becky Springer, Suzanne Willis, Larry Lundgren, and Roy Plote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Campbell and it was carried unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Luebke, seconded by Mr. Cummings and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

GENERAL MECHANICAL CONTRACT EXTENSION

Facilities Management Office Director Jim Scheffers reviewed a proposal to extend General Mechanical's mechanical (HVAC) contract for five years at no increase in base or labor costs from the current amounts in lieu of bidding services out. General Mechanical has proven their exemplary performance under the current contract and their flexibility and responsiveness has attributed to Mr. Scheffers contract extension request.

The current prices as well as the five-year extended prices would be as follows:

- Sycamore Campus - \$15,250
- Health Facility - \$3,081
- Jail - \$8,626
- Radio Towers (Waterman, Kirkland, Sandwich) - \$3,551
- Sycamore Radio Tower - \$510

It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Luebke and it was approved unanimously to grant the five-year contract extension to General Mechanical for the continuation of providing mechanical services to DeKalb County Government.

PROPERTY TAX SALE RESOLUTIONS

DeKalb County Treasurer/Collector Becky Springer shared that the County, as Trustee, held the annual Sealed Bid Auction of Surplus Properties recently and sold 60+ properties. Last month she had requested the approval of two Property Tax Sale Resolutions. This month she is bringing forward for consideration 65 Resolutions. The Committee briefly reviewed the Resolutions and respected maps of the lots. The majority of the properties were contained in Cortland Township.

Mr. Campbell moved to forward the sixty-five (65) Resolutions to the full County Board recommending their approval. Ms. Leifheit seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

FY2021 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Mr. Gregory presented a table of proposed budget amendments for the FY2021 Budget. The amendments deal primarily with the American Rescue Plan Act. They include, the creation of the ARPA Fund, the receipt of “lost revenue” and corresponding distribution as approved by the County Board on September 15, 2021. Additionally, the amendments involve a reserve transfer to the Court Security Fund in order to bring it into balance as discussed during the initial FY2022 Budget presentation. With the additional monies from ARPA, contributions were able to be made to the various Departments that are supported by their own tax levies in order to compensate for the Cap Differential due to the County not levying to the tax cap for the FY2022 Budget.

Mr. Gregory noted that he understood in previous years that the County did year-end budget transfers and allocations but going forward he would like to see amendments happen more on a bi-annual basis, if necessary.

Mr. Frieders moved to forward the FY2021 Budget Amendments to the full County Board recommending their approval. Mr. Cummings seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD HEALTH AND EDUCATION CENTER

Mr. Dan Kenney, founder and Executive Director of DeKalb County Community Gardens joined the Committee to provide a presentation outlining a new Community Food Health and Education Center within the City of DeKalb.

DeKalb County Community Gardens (DCCG) is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization founded in 2012 to help end hunger and food insecurity in DeKalb County, Illinois. DCCG seeks to empower residents in and around DeKalb County with access to healthy and sustainable foods through community gardens, experiential educational programs, and providing fresh vegetables at no cost to those in need. Mr. Kenney went on to provide more of a detailed overview of DCCG’s mission, various programs, and community partnerships.

The proposed Community Food Health and Education Center (CFHEC) will be home to expanded growing operations including three greenhouses and garden centers; additional plant production acreage; a flexible area for food aggregation and processing; a commercial shared use kitchen; and space for indoor and outdoor markets; in addition to classroom and gathering spaces for the community. This building and its services will be provided for in the Annie Glidden North neighborhood on property provided by Northern Illinois University for the project. There will be

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many different departments of study at NIU engaged in leaning and providing services through the Center. The facility will also provide space for Greater Family Health. Greater

Family Health, also funded in part of the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board, is the only Federally Qualified Health Center in DeKalb County. Greater Family Health will provide its full range of medical, dental, and mental health services out of the Center. The building will also provide office space for the Regional Office of Education's Basics Program and DeKalb Township Social Services outreach. Other nonprofit agencies, such as Youth Service Bureau, will also be able to use office space in the building to serve clients from the neighborhood and around the County. The CFHEC was also chosen as a high priority project by the Annie Glidden Revitalization Task Force established by the City of DeKalb and adopted by the City Council of DeKalb.

The CFHEC will allow DCCG to:

- Expand products and production in the core greenhouse and garden operation
- Provide job training year-round
- Expand Grow-Mobile, the mobile food pantry that provides food access to both urban and rural areas of the County
- Launch a multi-functional commercial kitchen which will provide resources for beginning and early-stage food enterprises and provide farmers and other producers with tools needed for value-added production
 - Provide on-site catering capabilities for rental events
- Launch a food aggregation and processing center to support Boxes of Hope, DCCG's popular CSA, and Grow Mobile programs
 - Prep crops for multiple sources for DCCG's indoor and outdoor markets, and expand local food distribution to nearby institutions
- Establish indoor and outdoor markets providing increased access to fresh and health food to the surrounding community
- Develop and provide gardening and nutritional education programs to the community
- Further develop work opportunities and training for high school and transitional students and youth adults with developmental disabilities, and low-income individuals in the community

Mr. Kenney detailed the proposed timeline of the project, which is scheduled to break ground in 2022 and be fully operational in early 2024. He also reviewed a summary of the progress report of the project and the results of gathering funding for the project.

Mr. Kenney expressed that he was not asking the County for funding at this time but challenged the Board to possibly look for creative ways to help contribute to the project in the future.

The Committee thanked Mr. Kenney for joining them and detailing this new project that could potentially have a great economic impact on the community.

FY2022 BUDGET

a. FY2022 Budget Appeals, if any

There was no appeal addressed to the Finance Committee.

b. Committee's Questions & Review of Departments' FY2022 Budget Requests

IMO Director Sheila Santos provided an update to the Committee on the DATA Fiber Optic Network Budget. In January 2021, the County Board approved a Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign the attached agreement between DeKalb County Government and Syndeo Networks, Inc., including all ancillary documents so incorporated, which will allow for the transfer of assets and liabilities of the County's fiber optic network known as "DATA". The agreement could only become effective and operative upon the approval of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency under the United States Department of Commerce. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and Federal staffing levels, there is no answer yet from the NOAA on whether they will approve the transfer. Because of that, Ms. Santos had to still budget for fiber maintenance and infrastructure upgrades in the FY2022 Budget. As soon as she receives any updates, she expressed she would pass them along to the Committee.

There were no additional budget questions.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Luebke, seconded by Mr. Cummings, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Bagby, Chairman

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary