

COVID RELIEF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

June 4, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

<https://kentcountymi.zoom.us/j/98068720656>

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mandy Bolter; Vice-Chair Stan Stek; Commissioners Emily Brieve, Diane Jones, Roger Morgan, Phil Skaggs, Jim Talen, and Robert Womack

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

I. WELCOME

Chair Bolter welcomed the group and thanked those who joined the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2020

Ms. Jones moved to approve the minutes from June 2, 2020, as presented. Supported by Ms. Brieve. Motion carried.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE DOCUMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Britt shared correspondence from the West Michigan Sports Commission regarding how to restart sports tourism as the economy continues to reopen.

IV. LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT FEEDBACK

Mr. Britt shared the results from the local units of government survey.

Chair Bolter asked for clarification about which municipalities stated they anticipate \$0 in cost and which didn't respond. Ms. MaryBeth Vantill, Strategy and Performance Management Manager, shared that municipalities labelled \$0 are ones that had no estimated COVID-19 related costs. In places left blank, a response was not received from the municipality at all.

Ms. Brieve encouraged continued attempts be made to contact municipalities that have not responded yet.

Mr. Talen stated appreciated the communication that was made with the City of Grand Rapids to clarify their data.

Mr. Skaggs pointed out that the greatest challenge listed by some municipalities was loss of revenues or revenue sharing. Since CARES Act funding cannot be used for that purpose, he wondered why they are hearing this response. Mr. Britt stated that it is a general comment. Municipalities should be aware the funds cannot be used for revenue shortfalls.

Chair Bolter asked for further information about the State of Michigan's part in helping local units of government. Mr. Britt answered they are continuing to follow up with the help of their lobbyist but have not heard more yet. Chair Bolter suggested that because it could still take some time to hear more concrete details, it may be prudent to guard the funds for municipalities for a week or so and then see if the State has responded.

V. COVID RELIEF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The subcommittee reviewed the items that would be included in the report to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners.

Return-to-Work PPE funding was increased from \$2 million to \$3 million. Mr. Duarte explained where dollars were rearranged to account for the increase. Mr. Britt stated there had been a big response to the PPE request already, with \$498,000 in requests coming in so far.

Mr. Skaggs asked for clarification regarding the Sheriff's Office's request. For example, school resource officers, community policing, and courthouse deputies are contracted services. He asked if any of these groups are getting paid twice. Sheriff Michelle LaJoye Young stated that contracted services such as school resource officers could not meet the conditions of their contracts due to COVID-19. Instead, those employees were used to aid in law enforcement response. The dollar amounts that were previously estimated for those contracted jobs were shifted for different purposes due to the pandemic. CARES Act funds can be used for that reason. Mr. Morgan added that it is his understanding that this is not a windfall for any sheriff's department, but rather a reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses.

Chair Bolter stated she would like to have the subcommittee continue to meet monthly through December, if needed.

Mr. Talen encouraged the group to continue to have communication with the Asian-American community. He said they will need to make sure everyone is included in this effort. Mr. Britt agreed and stated that he has had a meeting with Bing Goei regarding this topic and will continue to have follow up.

Mr. Stek asked if there should be a response prepared if the state of emergency is lifted before the allocation process. Ms. Linda Howell, Corporate Counsel, stated that if the report is approved by the board, it will reinforce its authority. The resolution that goes before the board can cover specific components such as what Mr. Stek addressed.

Mr. Skaggs thanked the chair, staff, and everyone who put time in helping to provide these documents. He noted that the purpose of this subcommittee was not to look beyond the "buckets" where allocations were going. Those specifics are left to the administration. Mr. Skaggs also stated he was glad that they would continue to work with different organizations on tracing, testing, and getting out the message. There is a lot of cultural competency out there, so he encouraged administration to continue to use the talent that's in the community and get them the resources they need.

Mr. Skaggs also stated he hopes the County continues to help the other local units of government. Things have been moving quickly, so there may be some expenses that a municipality might not have included in their estimates. Mr. Skaggs encouraged the administration to be sympathetic to its partners and municipalities.

Ms. Jones echoed the thanks to the staff, as did Mr. Womack.

Mr. Stek moved to approve the subcommittee report and recommendations. Support by Mr. Skaggs.

Yeas: Bolter, Stek, Jones, Brieve, Talen, Morgan, Skaggs, Womack – 8

Nays: 0.

Motion carried.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Jones asked when the other board members would have the opportunity to review the report. Mr. Britt noted it would be sent to the board as early as Friday, June 5.

Mr. Stek thanked Chair Bolter for her leadership during this process and for keeping the group on track.

Chair Bolter tentatively planned for the subcommittee to meet again on July 23 after their Board of Commissioners meeting.

Chair Bolter also acknowledged the subcommittee members and thanked them for their willingness to collaborate and work together through these long meetings. She also acknowledged how important the work of the subcommittee is to the community.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bing Goei expressed appreciation for what the subcommittee is doing for local small businesses. He also stated that in terms of the \$25 million for small businesses, he hopes that the committee looking at applications will include Asian business leaders for representation.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chair Bolter adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION _____