

**DAKOTA COUNTY
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2020

Live Stream, Government Center, Hastings, MN

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Commissioner Mike Slavik
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord
Commissioner Thomas A. Egan
Commissioner Joe Atkins
Commissioner Liz Workman
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
Commissioner Chris Gerlach

Also in attendance: Matt Smith, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

Due to the local state of emergency and social distancing, Commissioners participated in this meeting via telephone and the Committee meeting was conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

The video and audio recording from this meeting are available on the Dakota County website.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gaylord at 11:10 a.m.

2. Audience

Chair Gaylord noted that all public comments can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
No public comment was received for this meeting agenda.

3. Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Joe Atkins, the agenda was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Thomas A. Egan, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

4. Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On July 14, 2020

5. Operations, Management And Budget

5.1 Authorization To Execute Metropolitan Council Contract With Dakota County For Geospatial Data Formatting To Continue Dakota County Participation In MetroGIS

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 471.59 authorizes local governmental units to jointly or cooperatively exercise any

power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, through the MetroGIS initiative, established in 1996, the seven metropolitan counties (hereafter "counties"), the Metropolitan Council (hereafter "Council"), and other interests have been working on regional and collaborative solutions to create, maintain, and distribute commonly needed geospatial (GIS) data; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the MetroGIS Policy Board (hereafter "Board") directed MetroGIS staff to develop a Business Plan to provide direction for future collaborations necessary to realize the MetroGIS vision; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council Board accepted a Business Plan for MetroGIS on June 14, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Business Plan identified the need to for the Council and the counties to collaborate to build regional GIS datasets for distribution to public sector stakeholders, such as state agencies, municipalities and watershed districts; and

WHEREAS, the counties subsequently entered into agreements with the Council to build regional GIS data sets; and

WHEREAS, in August 2016, the County entered into the current such agreement with the Council; and

WHEREAS, that agreement expires on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the new agreement shall commence on January 1, 2021 and remain in effect until December 31, 2023, with an option to be extended for a single, two-year term; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to continue to participate in the MetroGIS collaborative; and

WHEREAS, under this agreement, the Metropolitan Council will provide \$4,000 per year to help cover costs of performing tasks defined in the agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chief Information Officer to execute the Metropolitan Council Contract with Dakota County for Geospatial Data Formatting, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That \$4,000 per year received from the Metropolitan Council under this agreement be deposited in the GIS Enterprise Fund.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. County Board/County Administration

6.1 Legislative Update

Stinson LLP Government Relations Director Jeremy Estenson gave a brief update on the legislative session and responded to questions. Tom Downs with Downs Government Affairs gave a brief update on Federal legislation. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No staff direction was given by Committee.

Note: There was a bomb threat called into Congressswoman Craig's office today in Burnsville. Via the Zoom meeting chat, Commissioner Workman asked if anything more had been heard regarding the threat. Nathan Hanson responded that staff from her office confirmed everyone was safe and very grateful for the quick action by first responders.

6.2 Update On South St. Paul Proposal To Join Dakota County Library System

County Manager Matt Smith and Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord started the discussion on this topic. The following also spoke to this item: South St. Paul Mayor Francis, Council Member Sharon Dewey, Bill Flatley, Kathy Halgren, Joel Hanson, and Physical Development Director Steve Mielke. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. The Committee did provide direction.

7. Community Services

7.1 Authorization To Expand Financial Empowerment Outreach, Add A 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Employment And Economic Assistance Adopted Budget

Deputy Director Employee and Economic Assistance Tiffinie Miller Sammons briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, the Financial Empowerment (FE) program supports the Community Services (CS) Division's mission of "Partnering with individuals, families and communities to build healthy, stable and vibrant lives"; and

WHEREAS, managed within Employment and Economic Assistance, the FE program provides a needed resource to all departments across the CS Division as well as the jail, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the FE program is an important component in the array of individual needs, as illustrated in the Social Determinants of Health; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County is a national leader with this initiative, as most community services county programs across the nation do not address this core need; and

WHEREAS, this initiative fits within Employment and Income Stability as well as Housing Stability, two of the pillars of the Social Determinants of Health model; and

WHEREAS, the model is a holistic framework used to improve self-sufficiency of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, the two Financial Empowerment Specialists are actively helping Dakota County residents improve their financial capability through one-on-one counseling and education; and

WHEREAS, due to COVID-19, counseling sessions have become virtual rather than in person; and

WHEREAS, this has added additional time to these sessions reducing the Specialists' ability to meet with the increasing number of people requesting their services; and

WHEREAS, in addition, in-person trainings and community resource events have been cancelled due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, to counteract the effects of COVID-19 and to provide valuable resources to a broader audience, it is important that FE educational and resource materials be available on the Dakota County website, via social media, through other technical avenues and available to be mailed; and

WHEREAS, we have identified five current trainings and additional educational resources to provided virtually without FE Counselor assistance; and

WHEREAS, Financial Capability resources such as virtual trainings, educational materials, budget examples, tips and links to other resources could be what is needed for a resident to improve their financial situation instead of attending a counseling session; and

WHEREAS; the demand for FE counseling services will increase as the current income supports for COVID-19 run out; and

WHEREAS, staff is requesting a 1.0 full-time equivalent, temporary administrative staff to collect the educational resources from FE staff to update the website, provide a social media presence, and manually send materials that FE Specialists currently and previously have not had the capacity to accomplish; and

WHEREAS, staff is requesting up to \$5,000 to be used for resource, material and administrative needs; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined the FE Outreach Program costs are necessary and a reasonable response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, therefore eligible for use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to implement the CARES Financial Empowerment (FE) Outreach Program in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of August 4, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to add a 1.0 full-time equivalent temporary staff for the Financial Empowerment program for the period of August 4, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

Expense	
CARES Act Expenses	<u>(\$50,000)</u>
Total Expense	(\$50,000)

Revenue	
CARES Act	<u>(\$50,000)</u>
Total Revenue	(\$50,000)

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Employment and Economic Assistance Adopted Budget as follows:

Expense	
CARES Act FE Outreach	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total Expense	\$50,000

Revenue	
CARES Act	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$50,000

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available to continue this program.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

7.2 Authorization To Continue And Expand Emergency Shelter Hotel Program, Add Housing Search

Services, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Social Services Budget

Deputy Director Social Services Madeline Kastler briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency Dakota County transitioned all singles shelter capacity from congregate settings to hotel settings and added capacity, expanding from 10 units of hotel shelter to 90 units; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 20-186 (April 7, 2020), the County Board authorized continuation of the seasonal singles emergency shelter operated by Matrix Housing Services and transitioned this program to 40 units of hotel sheltering; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution Nos. 20-239 (May 19, 2020) and 20-285 (June 16, 2020), Dakota County extended the existing seasonal Salvation Army hotel shelter program past the end date of April 1, 2020, expanded from 10 to 20 units, added 20 units of emergency hotel shelter with Ally Supportive Services, LLC (Ally), and allowed amendments to both vendors up to \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, Matrix Housing Services, Salvation Army and Ally all responded to a hotel shelter Request for Proposals and the 80 units of hotel shelter were funded through a Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Shelter Allocation Grant as well as a one-time DHS Emergency Services Program grant; and

WHEREAS, through a partnership with the Scott Carver Dakota Community Action Partnership (CAP), Dakota County has access to ten units of hotel shelter for families funded through a grant received by CAP; and

WHEREAS, due to ongoing shelter needs and a public health emergency, staff proposes a \$1,600,000 CARES package to support hotel sheltering and housing search services to include: a continuation of hotel shelter program with Matrix, Salvation Army, Ally and CAP utilizing CARES funds from July 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020, for \$1,187,500; \$300,000 in grants to be issued to Dakota County vendors via RFP to other community agencies to expand hotel sheltering activity during this time; and additional case management services with Ally and Salvation Army to support housing search services for people residing in hotel shelter for a total of \$112,500; and

WHEREAS, there is an immediate and serious need for these services that cannot be met with other procurement methods, and that the services that may be contracted for are limited to those necessary to meet the emergency facing persons experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that the emergency shelter hotel program costs are necessary and a reasonable response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, therefore eligible for use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to implement the Emergency Shelter Hotel Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000 for the period of August 4, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

Expense	
CARES Act	<u>(\$1,600,000)</u>
Total Expense	(\$1,600,000)
Revenue	
CARES Act	<u>(\$1,600,000)</u>
Total Revenue	(\$1,600,000)

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2020 Social Services budget as follows:

Expense	
CARES Act Hotel Sheltering Program	<u>\$1,600,000</u>
Total Expense	\$1,600,000

Revenue	
CARES Act	<u>\$1,600,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,600,000

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available to continue this program.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

7.3 Authorization To Implement Community Mental Health Support, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Social Services Budget

Deputy Director Social Services Emily Schug briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dakota County residents are experiencing increased stress, anxiety, isolation, uncertainty and exacerbation of existing health conditions; and

WHEREAS, residents, including people of color, are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, many individuals, communities and families experience barriers to accessing mental health support; and

WHEREAS, staff estimate 100 community members would benefit from additional low-cost, low-barrier mental health support; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to use Federal CARES Act Funds to offer grants of between \$5,000 and \$20,00 to community agencies to address unmet mental health needs; and

WHEREAS, these grants would be available to Dakota County agencies in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the period of August 4, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that the Community Mental Health Support costs are necessary and a reasonable response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, therefore eligible for use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to offer grants to community organizations to provide mental health outreach, services and supports in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the period of August 4, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

Expense

CARES Act Expenses	<u>(\$100,000)</u>
Total Expense	<u>(\$100,000)</u>

Revenue	
CARES Act	<u>(\$100,000)</u>
Total Revenue	<u>(\$100,000)</u>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2020 Social Services budget as follows:

Expense	
CARES Act Employment Incentive	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$150,000</u>

Revenue	
CARES Act	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$100,000</u>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these additional initiatives will end immediately if sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available to continue this program.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

8. County Manager's Report

No County Manager report.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Chris Gerlach, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeni Reynolds
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board