

## DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met via a video conferencing platform to be in compliance with the request set forth by Chairman of Dougherty County, GA and the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in regard to the Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic and social distancing on June 15, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners participating were Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins, Clinton Johnson, and Anthony Jones. Commissioner Victor Edwards was absent. Also participating were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff. The public and representatives of the media participated via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the June 1st Regular Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 Budgets. There being no one in support of or opposition to the topic the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman recognized Dana Glass, CEO to provide an update on the ASPIRE Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services. Ms. Glass shared that the state is one of their primary sources of funding and is cutting budgets for the upcoming year by 11%. This will equate to approximately \$172 million statewide for the Department of Behavioral Health and the reduction will be detrimental to services. She asked that stakeholders and community partners advocate and provide a (financial) commitment. After questions were answered, Chairman Cohilas shared that he provided Judge Darrisaw's concerns regarding this impact on mental health to our lobbyist, Cornerstone.

The Chairman called for consideration of the Resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs 2020 Community HOME Investment Program State Recipient Grant Agreement in the amount of \$300,000 and the Memorandum of Agreement between Dougherty County, Georgia and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission as it pertains to the implementation of the 2020 CHIP Program. The Commission approved the grant application on October 21, 2019. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Grants Administration Manager, Brenda Wade was available.

Mr. McCoy shared that the County was able to reapply for this grant and the funding will be an asset for our community. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission is paid approximately \$10,000 for a two year period to be the grants administrator. Commissioner Jones moved for

approval and there was a second provided by Commissioner Johnson. Under discussion, Mr. McCoy shared that this a 100% grant with no local match and explained the difference between this grant and the one awarded for the CDBG-DR. After there was no additional discussion the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-033 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND  
EXECUTION BY DOUGHERTY COUNTY  
A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA HOUSING AND  
FINANCE AUTHORITY AND A MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL  
COMMISSION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020  
COMMUNITY HOME INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CHIP) FOR  
ELIGIBLE PROJECT-RELATED COSTS IN DOUGHERTY  
COUNTY; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF  
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to accept a US Department of Justice Grant in the amount of \$58,008 and allow the County Administrator to execute related documents for the award. This is a 100% grant with no local match and is direct allocation from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF). This funding is related to the CARES Act and allows for a variety of purchases to be made. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed and shared that the grant will help the county with unexpected expenses.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for continued discussion and presentation of the proposed FY 2021 Budgets. County Administrator Michael McCoy, Finance Director Martha Hendley and Consultant Ed Wall addressed. Mr. McCoy discussed the General Fund revisions in the increased amount of \$208,780 for the proposed FY21 budget of \$52,978,381. The increase reflects the need for three new custodians to implement the court mandate as shared by Judge Lockette. Additionally, the second request is to create a base salary that no employee makes less than \$10/hour. The Solid Waste fund request increased by \$9,110. The grants fund request increased by \$500,746; \$200,746 is for the library grant and reflects an accounting requirement. The total proposed budget for FY 2021 is \$70,925,367 which is an increase of 1.5% from last year. Questions were answered for the Commission, to include Mr. McCoy stating the status of the VPILOT is not known and will be determined. He also highlighted options that can be implemented to reduce the budget sharing that this is not a staff recommendation because of the adverse impact to employees.

The Chairman called for announcements. Mr. McCoy shared that due to five Mondays in June, there will be no meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and the next meeting will be on June 29, 2020 where the Board will be asked to adopt the budget. Upon suggestion by Commissioner Gaines, the Chairman directed the County Administrator to work on a recognition for deceased Judges Goss and

Nancy Stephenson. Commissioner Jones reiterated his concerns regarding senseless violence against African Americans. Chairman Cohilas shared that the County buildings will be open on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and the courts will open on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK