



MINUTES
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
Camilla, Georgia
April 30, 2020

The Executive Committee of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission met Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the RC's large conference room. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's Shelter in Place Order, the Executive Committee met on behalf of the full Council in order to handle the regular business of the Council. Executive Committee Members present were Elaine Mays and Paul Nagy. Calling into the conference call were Danny Palmer, Ben Hayward, Anthony Jones, Glenda Battle, Jack Powell, and Brenda Peterson. John Spann was absent.

Staff present was Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, and Executive Assistant, Heather White.

Chairman Elaine Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 6:06 p.m. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held March 26, 2020. Glenda Battle made a motion to approve the minutes. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented the March 2020 Financial Statement. The beginning fund balance of the General fund was \$556,029.88. There was a deficit of \$40,004.18 bringing the ending fund balance of the General Fund to \$516,025.70. The Revolving Loan Fund had a beginning balance of \$297,765.75. It had a net surplus of \$340.10, bringing the ending balance to \$298,105.85. The Regional Transportation Fund had a beginning fund balance of \$238,081.93. There was a net surplus of \$52,130.23, bringing the ending fund balance to 290,212.16. The Regional Partners Network (RPN) had a beginning fund balance of \$7,355.64. There was a deficit in the RPN Fund of \$75.56 bringing the ending fund balance to \$7,280.08. The Pension Trust Fund had a beginning balance of \$916,875.96. There was a deficit in the Pension Trust Fund of \$154,348.36, bringing the ending balance to \$762,527.60. Jack Powell made a motion to approve the February 2020 Financial Statement. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Angell discussed the FY20 amended budget with the Executive Committee. After answering questions, she asked for a motion to adopt the amended FY20 budget. Paul Nagy made the motion. Jack Powell made the second motion; all agreed.

Ms. Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to discuss the Resolution to submit the Annual Regional Work Program to GA DCA. Jack Powell made a motion to submit the resolution. Paul Nagy made the second motion; all agreed.


Deputy Director Barbara Reddick presented her planning report. An Assistance to Firefighter Grant was submitted for the City of Poulan for firefighting equipment. The Immediate Threat and Danger application for the City of Camilla is ready for submission but is awaiting signatures. The COVID-19 quarantine is making it challenging to get signatures. The Planning Department is working on zoning for Funston. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for 2020 were submitted for water system improvements for Sasser, Attapulgus, and Damascus, and, street and sewer improvements for the City of Colquitt. Community

Housing Initiative Program Grants (CHIP) awards were announced. The Cities of Sylvester and Blakely and Dougherty County each were awarded the rehabilitation of 6 units totaling a monetary award of \$306,000 each. Pre-Hazard Mitigation plans are in various stages for Grady, Miller, Baker, Seminole, Calhoun, Mitchell, and Decatur Counties. The Planning Department is also working on Solid Waste Plans. The Housing Task Force Meeting that was scheduled for May 5th is on hold. The Brownfields Grant that was submitted in December 2019, will announce the awards in April or May. Brownfield Grant applicants include Leary, Arlington, Bainbridge, and Donalsonville. We have an intern, Ms. Sanusi Tolulope Mary. Her internship is on hold due to Covid-19. Our planning staff is remaining very busy working remotely from home and continue to come in the office occasionally. There are some GIS contracts in the works as well.

Mrs. Mays asked Executive Director to give her Executive Director's report. The minutes from the February Council meeting were corrected to reflect that the Pension Trust Fund had a net deficit instead of a surplus of \$3,164.17. After the March meeting, and upon request by our Executive Committee, our attorney contacted Kebo's attorney to attempt to have them finalize an agreement on the parking lot rent with a clause that would exempt them from paying rent during any business closure (including COVID19). Kebo's has moved their storage building from the parking lot and are no longer allowing employees to park in the parking lot so the lease will be revisited when their business operations go back to normal. The Georgia General Assembly is still in suspension so HB1122 to reduce Council size is not being addressed at this time. The DCA contract amount reflects a total cut to the contract of \$11,856. Our office remains closed to visitors at this time. Most employees are successfully working at home. There is always at least one Director in the office at all times, along with a receptionist. Abby Casey, receptionist, has increased her hours since Ms. Helen Williams is quarantined. We will continue to allow teleworking for all possible workers to mitigate exposure to COVID-19. Our Georgia AARP Ambassador is working with us on the concept of a Pilot Regional Age-Friendly Program to the AARP National Representative. Her supervisor was very supportive and authorized her to proceed with the project application. This will be presented to our city and county managers and to the full Council as soon as time and the virus allows. The SWG RLF Loan Board, with EDA's approval has agreed to provide COVID-19 assistance to our current RLF recipients who are currently in good standing. This assistance allows them to skip two payments with no penalty or interest. There will also be a considerable amount of funding available for our transportation program via FTA, flowing through GDOT, in response to economic or other conditions caused by COVID1-19. This will be retroactive to January 20, 2020. A Council member has requested that we consider quarterly Council meetings to save money and make more money available for staff training and greater outreach to under-served communities. The rental property at 30 W. Broad street is available for rent again as the current lessor has backed out. The locks have been changed on the building.

With no other business Paul Nagy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Peterson seconded the motion; all agreed. Mrs. Mays adjourned the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.


Elaine Mays, Chairman


Suzanne Angell, Executive Director