



REPORT TO TOWN BOARD

FROM: Andrew J. Quarnstrom, Township Supervisor

DATE: October 6th, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Amendment, Ordinance 2020-1002

A. Introduction: The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the FY 2020/2021 budget to increase revenues by \$50,000.00 in the General Assistance Miscellaneous Revenue Account (803-48000) and increase expenditures by \$50,000.00 in the General Assistance Emergency Grant Account (880810-52690) to account for Community Development Block Grant funds.

B. Recommended Action: The Township Administration recommends approval of this Ordinance.

C. Summary:

The City of Champaign Township applied to be a subrecipient of the City of Champaign for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$50,000. This grant is specific to providing housing related costs to those negatively affected by the COVID-19 virus. The City of Champaign Township will provide up to \$1,800.00 of rental or mortgage assistance to those financially affected by the COVID-19 virus.

D. Background:

1. Emergency Rental Assistance: The City of Champaign Township implemented an Emergency Rental Assistance program in 2018. Since then, the program has expanded in scope and partnership and the Township now works closely with Cunningham Township and Regional Planning to operate a “no wrong door” concept for rental assistance in Champaign County.

2. Community Development Block Grant: The Community Development Block Grant is an annual grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development given to states, cities, and counties. The grant is intended to help provide decent housing and a suitable living environment for primarily low- and moderate-income persons. The City of Champaign received the CDBG-COVID grant and in turn the City of Champaign Township became a sub-recipient for COVID-specific rental and mortgage assistance. The Township Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Champaign and authorized the Township Supervisor to execute a Subrecipient Agreement in Resolution 2020-0701.

E. Alternatives:

1. Approve Ordinance 2020-1002, An Ordinance Amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2020/2021 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

2. Do not approve Ordinance 2020-1002, An Ordinance Amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2020/2021 and provide staff with alternative direction.

F. Discussion of Alternatives:

Alternative 1 would approve Ordinance 2020-1002 and amend the 2020/2021 budget to allow the Township to utilize \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds..

a. Advantages

- Approving Ordinance 2020-1002 will allow the Township to expand its rental assistance and specifically in service to renters and owners that have been financially affected by COVID-19. As a grant subrecipient, the Township will be able to provide COVID-specific assistance with the CDBG grant to between 30 and 80 households in the City of Champaign.

b. Disadvantages

- No disadvantage to approving Ordinance 2020-1002.

Alternative 2 Do not approve Ordinance 2020-1002.

a. Advantages

- None.

b. Disadvantages

- Not accepting this amendment and in turn sub-recipient status for the Community Development Block Grant will preclude the Township from helping additional individuals and families affected by COVID with rental and mortgage assistance.

G. Community Input: Input can be given during the public comments section of the meeting at which this item is considered.

H. Budget Impact: Should the Ordinance be approved; the Township will receive \$50,000.00 which will be used solely for rental and mortgage assistance.

I. Staffing Impact: Approximately 2 hours of staff time were needed to write this report. In addition, approximately 40 hours of additional case management will be required by the Township’s Emergency Assistance Caseworker over the next year.

Prepared by:

Andrew Quarnstrom
Township Supervisor