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## REPORT TO TOWN BOARD

**FROM:** Andrew J. Quarnstrom, Township Supervisor

**DATE:** January 5th, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Amendment, Ordinance 2021-0101 and Intergovernmental Agreement, Resolution 2021-0102

**A. Introduction:** The purpose of Ordinance 2021-0101 is to amend the FY 2020/2021 budget to increase revenues by \$331,743.00 in the General Assistance Miscellaneous Revenue Account (803-4800) and increase expenditures by \$331,743.00 in the General Assistance Emergency Grant Account (80380810-52690). The purpose of Resolution 2021-0102 is to give the Township Supervisor the authority to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the City of Champaign to receive Community Development Block Grant funds for Covid Relief assistance.

**B. Recommended Action:** The Township Administration recommends approval of Ordinance 2021-0101 and Resolution 2021-0102.

### **C. Summary:**

The City of Champaign Township applied to be a subrecipient of the City of Champaign for a Community Development Block Grant. This grant is specific to providing housing related and utility assistance to those negatively affected by the Covid virus. The City of Champaign Township will provide up to three (3) months of rental, mortgage, or utility assistance to those financially affected by the Covid-19 virus. This is the second round of funding the Township has received through the CDBG as a subrecipient.

### **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, which is intended to help provide decent housing and a suitable living environment for primarily low- and moderate-income persons. In October of 2020, the City of Champaign received the CDBG-Covid grant, and in turn, the City of Champaign Township entered into a subrecipient agreement with the City of Champaign for Covid specific rental and mortgage assistance in the amount of \$50,000. That money has been fully utilized. This \$331,743.00 is the second round of funding the Township has received through the CDBG as a subrecipient of the City of Champaign.

**3. Utility Assistance:** Recent demand for assistance with utilities has been recognized by many social service and local government agencies since the onset of Covid. Demand has increased and although a

stay in shut offs has been negotiated, residents still have large past due amounts that must be paid prior to spring when shut offs begin again. This CDBG funding will provide significant utility relief for up to three months per household.

**E. Alternatives:**

1. Approve Ordinance 2021-0101 and Resolution 2021-1102, An Ordinance Amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2020/2021 in the amount of \$331,743.00 and a Resolution giving the Township Supervisor authority to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the City of Champaign for Covid relief.
2. Do not approve Ordinance 2021-0101 and Resolution 2021-0102, An Ordinance Amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2020/2021 and Resolution approving a subrecipient agreement and provide staff with alternative direction.

**F. Discussion of Alternatives:**

**Alternative 1** would approve Ordinance 2021-0101 and Resolution 2021-0102, an Ordinance amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2020/2021 in the amount of \$331,743.00 and a Resolution giving the Township Supervisor authority to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the City of Champaign for Covid relief.

**a. Advantages**

- Approving Ordinance 2021-0101 and Resolution 2021-0102 will allow the Township to expand its rental assistance program and specifically service to renters and owners that have been financially affected by Covid 19. Additionally, this Community Development Block Grant funding provides for utility assistance to residents impacted through income loss due to Covid. As a grant recipient, the Township will be able to provide Covid specific assistance with the CDBG grant to hundreds of households.

**b. Disadvantages**

- No disadvantage to approving Ordinance 2021-0101 and Resolution 2021-0102.

**Alternative 2** Do not approve Ordinance 2021-0101 and Resolution 2021-0102.

**a. Advantages**

- None.

**b. Disadvantages**

- Not accepting this budget amendment and in turn sub-grantee status for the Community Development Block Grant would preclude the Township from helping additional individuals and families effected by Covid with rental, mortgage assistance, and utility 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 and Resolution be approved; the Township will receive \$331,743.00, all of which would 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 80 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