



REPORT TO TOWN BOARD

FROM: Andrew J. Quarnstrom, Township Supervisor

DATE: February 2nd, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Amendment, Ordinance 2021-0201 and Intergovernmental Agreement, Resolution 2021-0202

A. Introduction: The purpose of Ordinance 2021-0201 is to amend the FY 2020/2021 budget to increase revenues by \$25,000.00 in the General Assistance Miscellaneous Revenue Account (803-4800) and increase expenditures by \$25,000.00 in the General Assistance Emergency Grant Account (80380810-52690). The purpose of Resolution 2021-0202 is to give the Township Supervisor the authority to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District to receive Covid Relief utility assistance.

B. Recommended Action: The Township Administration recommends approval of Ordinance 2021-0201 and Resolution 2021-0202.

C. Summary:

The Champaign-Urbana Public Health District received federal funding to minimize the financial burdens caused by Covid in its district boundary. Due to the comprehensive rental and utility assistance program the Township has in place, the Township has requested to be a sub-grantee for these funds.

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. Covid Rental, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance: The City of Champaign Township has been the recipient of over \$600,000.00 in various types of sub grants since the beginning of Covid. The increase in revenue has allowed the Township to expand its rental assistance, provide Covid-specific mortgage assistance, and provide Covid-specific utility assistance.

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 health district funding will provide significant utility relief for up to three months per household.

E. Alternatives:

1. Approve Ordinance 2021-0201 and Resolution 2021-0202, An Ordinance Amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2020/2021 in the amount of \$25,000 and a Resolution giving the Township Supervisor authority to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District for Covid relief.
2. Do not approve Ordinance 2021-0201 and Resolution 2021-0202, 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 2021-0201 and Resolution 2021-0202, an Ordinance amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2020/2021 in the amount of \$25,000.00 and a Resolution giving the Township Supervisor authority to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District for Covid relief.

a. Advantages

- Approving Ordinance 2021-0201 and Resolution 2021-0202 will allow the Township to expand its utility assistance program and specifically to those that have been financially affected by Covid 19.

b. Disadvantages

- No disadvantage to approving Ordinance 2021-0201 and Resolution 2021-0202.

Alternative 2 Do not approve Ordinance 2021-0201 and Resolution 2021-0202.

a. Advantages

- None.

b. Disadvantages

- Not accepting this budget amendment or approving the intergovernmental agreement granting sub-grantee status from the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District would preclude the Township from helping additional individuals and families affected by Covid with 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 \$25,000.00, all of which would be used solely for rental and mortgage assistance.

I. Staffing Impact: Approximately 1 hour of staff time was needed to write this report. In addition, approximately 20 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