

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruszkiewicz, Chairman  
Barry Cheney, Joseph J. Minuta,  
James D. O'Donnell, Rob Sassi, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Kevindaryan Lujan, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harold Porr III, Deputy County Executive  
Steven M. Gross, Commissioner, Human Resources  
Rachel Wilson, Director, Youth Bureau  
Susan Ambrosino, Associate Account Clerk II, Youth Bureau  
Nicole Andersen, Director, Community Development  
Bill Fioravanti, Director, Economic Development  
Amanda Dana, Director, Tourism  
Stephanie Kistner, Tourism Coordinator, Tourism  
Johanna Porr, County Historian  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Ruszkiewicz opened the committee meeting at 5:02 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cheney moved the request to appropriate funding received from "Orange County Youth Bureau 600 Fund" to cover expenses related to the 2019 Annual Youth Awards Luncheon, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Ms. Wilson explained that they were requesting to shift money from one fund into their full budget. They had three additional youths receive awards than they originally anticipated and they like to recognize these youths with monetary awards.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request for supplemental appropriation to pay for Retiree Health Insurance (Post-Retirement Health Benefits) which are ineligible costs for reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investment Partnerships Grants, and Emergency Solutions Grants \$305,776.35, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Ms. Andersen explained that this was the cost for all the retirees for 2018 and 2019.

Mr. Minuta confirmed that this was being done to correct the past budgetary items.

Ms. Andersen explained that this is the retiree health insurance which is a line in their budget which they thought at the time they could draw down from their HUD Grant but they are not allowed to do that.

Mr. Cheney was unclear why they declined it. Do they pay the retirement part of it or just the healthcare part.

Ms. Andersen explained that in their budget they cannot draw down for anything that is not specific for that years grant. In order to make those projects happen and implement a grant, they cannot draw down on something. The retirees do not work there anymore so they can only pay for current staff retirement costs.

Mr. O'Donnell confirmed that the \$305,776.35 is all retiree health benefits and there are nine for 2019. He asked how many all together in the \$305,776.35 because there has to be more than nine.

Ms. Andersen stated that each person is about \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00, depending on what they are receiving.

Ms. Riordan explained that there were eight people for 2018 and nine for 2019.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that before that it was paid for by the federal government and now they changed their rules and we have to pick up the money for that.

Ms. Andersen explained that they are still working with HUD to figure that out.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested that they should budget \$305,000.00 for next year.

Ms. Riordan clarified it was about \$178,000.00 because it is one years worth. The \$305,000.00 is two years, 2018 and 2019.

Ms. Andersen explained it was only \$178,000.00 for 2020 which will come out of taxation.

Mr. O'Donnell commented that it is no longer like it was in the past when they were fully federally funded because of the change in regulations. He asked for a copy of the change in regulations and Ms. Andersen agreed to get it.

Ms. Andersen explained that the regulations did not necessarily change, HUD interprets their own regulations and provides guidance.

Mr. O'Donnell asked what were her counterparts saying in other counties.

Ms. Andersen responded that they say they never drawn down on that, they cannot believe they did it because it has always been taxation. The regulations are very complicated.

Mr. Cheney asked if there was a way to project the dollar amount and set aside in an account so we can pay those benefits in the future.

Ms. Andersen stated that she can ask them and see what they say.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Porr provided a report on the history of the Heritage Trail (see original minutes).

Mr. Fioravanti provided a monthly update on Economic Development (see original minutes).

Ms. Dana provided a quarterly update on Tourism (see original minutes).

On the motion of Mr. Sierra, seconded by Mr. Minuta, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.