
2. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2020: Motion by Finfrock to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Droge. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Regional Office of Education
   - Monthly Bills: Motion by Asp to approve the bills totaling $298.72, 2nd by Droge. Motion carried.
   - Department Update: Report was emailed to Committee. ROE Superintendent Sondgeroth stated they have not received any guidance from Illinois Dept. of Public Health or Illinois State Board of Education on reopening of schools.

5. Health Department: Auman gave a brief report on the COVID-19 pandemic; 428 positive cases. There has been a lot of activity over the past couple of days; 17.2% of population have been tested. They have met with the School Nurses and Administrative staff on procedures during the school day.

6. Solid Waste Department
   - Monthly Bills: Motion by Fox to approve the bills totaling $2,517.76, 2nd by Asp. Motion carried.
   - Department Update: Rypkema gave a brief update. They have made some changes to the Electronics Recycling events; they have been overwhelmed with customers. They will require households to obtain a permit free of charge and limit the permits to 250 households per an event. They will also limit it to 5 items. Fox agreed with the changes and would support a small fee being charged.
   - Grant Applications: None

7. Animal Control
   - Monthly Bills: Motion by Droge to approve the Animal Control bills in the amount of $2,526.64, 2nd by Asp. Motion carried. Motion by Asp to approve the Pet Population bills in the amount of $1,100.00, 2nd by Finfrock. Motion carried.
   - Department Update: Dr. Champley stated the revenue is starting to climb; the Veterinary clinics are starting to get back to normal.

8. Veterans Assistance Commission: None
9. LOTS (Lee-Ogle Transportation System): Mrs. Zimmerman went through her report.

10. Old Business: Bowers reminded everyone about the hearing meeting for August 26th. It will be held in Conference Room 100 and each organization will be limited to 2 representatives.

11. New Business: None

12. Closed Session – Interviews 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3): None

13. Adjournment: With no further business, Chairwoman Bowers adjourned the meeting. Time: 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany O’Brien
Regional Office of Education August Committee Report

ISBE Guidelines for Schools

On July 23rd, ISBE released their updated learning recommendations for the fall. Mr. Sondgeroth and Mr. Tennyson will continue to work with our districts on their plans for returning to school within the guidelines put out by ISBE and the Illinois Department of Public Health. Our office has partnered with the Illinois Principals Association, the Regional Office of Education #8, and the three county health administrators to facilitate weekly ZOOM meetings so we can all prepare to best meet the needs of our students and faculties when we resume in-person learning. Our professional learning department facilitated four Zoom meetings during July that were joined in by our county health administrators. The meetings proved to be invaluable and provided us all with time to collaborate and come up with plans to try and educate our students along with a focus on everyone’s safety.

School Inspections

Our office has started coordinating school inspections with those districts that are interested in getting them completed before students and staff return to school. So far we have inspected all schools in the Sterling School District with plans to inspect Rock Falls schools during the first week in August. We will continue to work with all our districts to try and complete inspections this year in a safe and timely manner.

Professional Development

The Office of Professional Learning has cancelled or postponed face-to-face sessions for the month of May, June & July and continue to migrate as much training and support as possible to a digital distance format. School improvement meetings, teacher coaching, career pathway endorsement work, and transitional math & ELA work also continue on a virtual basis. All summer learning is in response to the Needs Assessment survey data collected by the office in May 2020.

The Office of Professional Learning has been working diligently to support teachers, administrators, and educational support staff as they transition their teaching and learning to a remote format. We have provided opportunities for teachers to network, collaborate, and connect through Zoom. Sessions have been well received by educators, who appreciate the support and opportunity to come together.

July Participants – 720

During the month of June our Guest Facilitators were: Ben Sondgeroth, Karla Belzer, Terry Camplain & Martha Reilly
Thursday, July 2
Leading Forward: Planning for Fall Administrator & Curriculum Director Series @ 9 a.m.

Wednesday, July 8
Workplace Wednesdays (day 1) @ 9 a.m.

Thursday, July 9
Leading Forward: Planning for Fall Administrator & Curriculum Director Series @ 9 a.m.
Embracing the New Legislation: LGBT Inclusion in K-12 Curriculum @ 10 a.m.

Monday, July 13
Teacher Evaluator Training (Admin Acad) @ 9 a.m.
Preparing for Fall: K-12 Literacy @ 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14
Google Classroom Refresher @ 9 a.m.
Learn How to Leverage Google Meet @ 10:45 a.m.
Adding It Up! Preparing our Math Classrooms for Fall 2020 (day 1) @ 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15
Workplace Wednesdays (day 2) @ 9 a.m.
Preschool Family Educators & Support Specialists Networking @ 10 a.m.

Thursday, July 16
Principal/Teacher Evaluator Retraining: Student Growth (Admin Acad) @ 9 a.m.
Leading Forward: Planning for Fall Administrator & Curriculum Director Series @ 9 a.m.
Adding It Up! Preparing our Math Classrooms for Fall 2020 (day 2) @ 12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 20
Trauma Related to COVID 19 (Part 1 of 2) @ 9 a.m.

Tuesday, July 21
Preparing for Fall: Preschool @ 9 a.m.
Adding It Up! Preparing our Math Classrooms for Fall 2020 (day 3) @ 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22
Workplace Wednesdays (day 3) @ 9 a.m.
Strategies to Help with Trauma from COVID 19 (Part 2 of 2) @ 9 a.m.

Thursday, July 23
Xello: Orientation to Career Exploration Platform @ 9 a.m.
Leading Forward: Planning for Fall Administrator & Curriculum Director Series @ 9 a.m.
Adding It Up! Preparing our Math Classrooms for Fall 2020 (day 4) @ 12:30 p.m.

Friday, July 24
Impact of ACES @ 9 a.m.
Monday, July 27
Preparing for Fall: K-12 Social Studies @ 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28
Preparing for Fall: K-12 Science @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 30
Leading Forward: Planning for Fall Administrator & Curriculum Director Series @ 9 a.m.
Create Engaging Video Activities with Flipgrid @ 9 a.m.
Create Activities and Learning Journals with SeeSaw @ 10:30 a.m.
Your Littles Can Google Too @ 1 p.m.

ROE 47 is proud to announce our Education Pathway grant partnership award with Sauk Valley College, Rock Falls High School, Dixon Public Schools, Riverbend School District, Morrison School District, and WACC. This is a 4 year grant to invest in our students and communities to grow our education pipeline!

The Sauk Valley Education Pathway Partnership will systemically address the state & community educator shortage that is the result of an aging workforce and turnover through resignations. The plan will simultaneously address common challenges in partner LEAs, such as: high percentages of chronic absenteeism, high instances of poverty, moderate post-secondary enrollment, and high remediation rates at the post-secondary level, in order to improve outcomes for students and our school systems.

The partnership will build common language, frameworks, and supports amongst a diverse stakeholder group, including: ROE 47, Sauk Valley Community College, Western Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Whiteside Area Career Center, and four high schools (Dixon, Fulton, Morrison, and Rock Falls). This partnership has been actively discussing & planning for pathway endorsements thru funding from a SEPI grant in 2019. Work to date has focused on the construction of a pathway handbook, identification of pathway courses, & competency rubrics to help districts in implementing a unique pathway at the local level. This funding opportunity will allow the partnership to expand the planning and implementation process to focus on sustainable local systems, while thoughtfully braiding all aspects of the PWR Act into a cohesive system for our PK-20 educational communities.

Family Educators in the department maintain close contact with their at-risk preschool families in Rock Falls & Amboy. Family Educators have identified and communicated community resources during this uncertain time. They are also working to develop family engagement opportunities for families and young children using platforms such as facebook and zoom.
Regional Center for Change

C4C is getting ready to start the school year with in-person learning. We have updated our return to school plan, adjusted our school calendar, and have done our best to create a clean, safe, and friendly school environment. Many updates have been completed including new carpet, fresh paint, and chromebooks for students! These updates will provide an atmosphere to foster a serene school environment which will hopefully put our student at ease during this uneasy time.

Mission Statement

At C4C we are dedicated to student achievement in school and life, instilling HOPE for a future, self-confidence NOW, and RESILIENCE forever!

Education Outreach Program

The Education Outreach Program staff continue to provide case management, GED instruction, work-based learning services, and job search assistance to our students to help them stay focused on their academic and employment goals.

In-person GED classes through the Education Outreach Program are scheduled to resume at Wallace Educational Center and the Rock River Center on 8/18/20. Until that time, we continue to encourage our students to participate in remote learning utilizing options such as Zoom, Facebook, GED practice tests, i-Pathways, Khan Academy and GED study packets. We are also meeting with students individually by appointment.

The Education Outreach Program is in the process of enrolling new students. Any young adult aged 17-24 who resides in Lee, Ogle, or Whiteside County and is in need of their HSE Certificate is eligible for enrollment.

To enroll, or for additional information, individuals may contact Beth Hubbard at 815/622-4950.

Parents as Teachers First Years
Virtual Home Visits

The majority of our staff transitioned back into the office in July which has, in some ways, made virtual visits easier. We repurposed some of our space at Wallace School into “studios”, transforming an empty room, the lending library, and the Play and Learn Classroom into areas designated for virtual visits. The home visitors have worked out sharing the “studio” space since there might be three or four virtual visits happening at the same time and each one needs a private area in order to maintain confidentiality. Having daily access to their offices instead of working from a makeshift home office has also made completing paperwork much easier as well.

We are continuing to follow ISBE and program guidance to provide virtual services to families although we have done some brief, limited in-person contacts. These contacts are based on individual circumstances and follow ISBE, IDPH and CDC safety guidelines.

We are working on recruiting new families to fill our available slots. It has been challenging to recruit and enroll new families without face-to-face contact. We do have a number of families who are interested in joining the program and are willing to try virtual home visiting. We were also fortunate that the majority of families who were enrolled in the program prior to March have stayed with the program through the switch to virtual home visiting.

Virtual Group Meetings

We are offering several pop-up group meeting videos each month on our Facebook page. When families watch the videos, they are encouraged to comment on the video on Facebook and then tell their home visitor they watched the video. The home visitors follow up and provide the family with materials so they can participate in a similar activity at home.

We have also been offering Virtual Field Trips on our Facebook page. Specifically, one home visitor has been regularly posting videos of happenings on her farm. She’s posted up-close videos of farm animals, planting corn, barn cats, etc. We’ve also had ducks in a pond and have plans for touring backyards designed for encouraging early learning play. We also continue to post daily storybooks read by the program coordinator.

Home Visitor Professional Learning

Our professional learning this year will focus on supporting home visitors in providing quality virtual services. Observing child development milestones over video is challenging and visits conducted over the phone only (no video) don’t allow for observations by the home visitor at all. Staff have had to pivot from being responsible for the majority of the developmental observations to relying on parent reporting for the developmental milestones. Parents are obviously capable of providing accurate observations and developmental milestone information,
However we are working with the home visitors to train them to more effectively guide their discussions with parents in order to get a “verbal video” from the parent of what they see, hear, and feel in the moment. The home visitors are learning to more effectively use prompting questions and coaching skills to get parents to share deeper observations about their children’s skills and behaviors and explore the why behind what they are observing. Home visitors are also working on strengthening their reflective listening skills.

We also recognize that home visitors help families navigate stressful situations every day. With that comes compassion fatigue and vicarious traumatization which can be magnified in some staff in this time of COVID-19. We are providing staff with Infant Mental Health Consultation services and promoting self-care and reflective supervision to help offset the physical and emotional exhaustion that can shadow their work in the helping profession. We are offering staff concrete strategies that can be included in a personalized plan for self-care and managing their emotional well-being.
Ogle County Animal Control  
Warden Activity Record  
July 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Month of July</strong></th>
<th><strong>Monthly Total</strong></th>
<th><strong>Misc. Notes</strong></th>
<th><strong>2020 Year to Date</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Miles Driven</td>
<td>1404</td>
<td>Regular duties - Check complaints</td>
<td>19989</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stray pick up - Tag Doors for Non-Vac</td>
<td>7393</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bites Reported</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7 Dogs</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Cats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strays</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 Ogle Co.</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notices To Comply Given</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18 No Current Vac / Registration</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Dogs Running At Large</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations Issued</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dogs Running @ Large</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Rabies Shot and Tag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Calls</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 Dogs - No proper shelter -No water</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Dog In Hot Car</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bites on Animals</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 Dog on Dog</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Dog on Cat</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assist Other Agencies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 MT. Morris P.D.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Ogle County Sheriff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Deemed Dangerous</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Deemed Vicious</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Complaints</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submitted by:  
Kevin G. Christensen - Warden  
Ogle County Animal Control
Superintendent Comments:

- Filing claims is a tedious process, involving deciding which client will get served and which one will be put on the back burner.
- The VSO from IDVA has not been to Oregon since the middle of March. As of August 1, the IDVA representative will be in her office two days a week. It is still unclear when she will return to the center.
- I've met with a few veterans who had previously gone to the senior center for assistance. I have to refer them back to the IDVA representative. The IDVA does not share Power of Attorney with the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers.
- Changes to the report from last month: $753.28 was incorrectly allocated to Office Supplies. It should have been $38.21. $205.21 has been moved to the new account called Compliance. $125.24 was for Covid related expenditures and $79.97 was for HIPAA related expenses. Postage costs were 15 cents. Cell phone expenses were $207.43. $275 was for the Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting. In the training category, the remainder of $27.28 was spent.
- I worked with the Oregon VFW, the Rochelle VFW, and a local veteran to get him a powered wheelchair. Here is the story: https://oglecountylife.com/article/local-veteran-gets-new-wheels

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### VACOC Activity

**Communication**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calls</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Mail Sent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Client Office Visits</td>
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**Financial Aid**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Approved</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Declined</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food/Hygiene</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Funeral Expense</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Veteran Financial Aid</td>
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</table>

**Transportation**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Requests Fulfilled</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of VA Facilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Veterans</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles Driven</td>
<td>3,539.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Drivers’ Hours</td>
<td>150.8</td>
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</table>

**VSO (July)**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Forms Completed</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Claims Money Received</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Pension Received</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pay Received</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Clients</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Balance Sheet  
As of June 30, 2020  

ASSETS  
Current Assets  
Checking/Savings  
VAC Discretionary Fund  193.64  
VAC Operating Fund  1,113.08  
Total Checking/Savings  1,306.72  

Total Current Assets  1,306.72  

TOTAL ASSETS  1,306.72  

Profit & Loss  
June 2020  

Ordinary Income/Expense  
Expenses  
Category 100 - Administration  
101 - Superintendent Salary  2,000.00  
103 - Trans. Coordinator Salary  350.00  
104 - VAC Office Rent  75.00  
109 - VAC Office Supplies  762.28  
110 - VAC Postage Fees  13.15  
117 - VAC Travel  115.42  
Total Category 100 - Administration  3,315.85  

Category 200 - Veteran Support  
201-Driver Mileage Reimbursement  1,567.16  
202 - Driver Toll Fees  36.20  
Total Category 200 - Veteran Support  1,603.36  

Total Expense  4,919.21  

Net Ordinary Income  -4,919.21  

Net Income  -4,919.21
1.) Recent Updates
   a. Upcoming changes with IDOT
      i. Monthly expenses sent to IDOT
      ii. Quarterly documentation to substantiate expenses uploaded to IDOT
      iii. Quarterly reimbursement still
         1. Eventually monthly reimbursements
      iv. Working with Treasurer’s Office to secure Direct Deposits from IDOT
   b. Executing contracts with IDOT...
      i. 5311
      ii. 5311F
      iii. DOAP
      iv. CARES
         1. See amount specifics below under #4
   c. Update of transit COVID-19 activity provided to IL Senate Transportation Cmte.
   d. Mailing of LOTS brochure to each household (38,500) in Lee and Ogle Counties
      i. New riders and phone calls regarding services
   e. Development of new marketing campaign
      i. One feature: giving people the ability to “try” our transit services
      1. First two rides are on us

2.) COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic / Impact on Public Transportation
   a. Ridership is 53.79% of what it was one year ago
      i. 664 rides (week of July 27, 2020) vs. 1,437 rides (same period one year ago)
      ii. Ridership continuing to trend upward
         1. Since June 1st LOTS has experienced a 44% increase in ridership
         2. See attached ridership numbers for LOTS system
      iii. New moneyless system – ParaPass of CTS – soon implemented
      iv. New vehicle maintenance tracking system will be implemented shortly
   b. Following protocols remain in place
      i. Riders and Drivers must wear face coverings (unless medical condition)
      ii. Driver shield doors installed on vehicles including, most recently, mini-vans
      iii. Riders are being asked to use social distancing
      iv. Sanitizing protocols before/after trips.
      v. Daily sanitizing protocols in place at Reagan Transit Center
      vi. Drivers and staff take temperature taken before/after shift.
   c. IDOT coordinating reimbursement of COVID-19 activities with CARES Act funding
      i. 100% reimbursement for Operational Costs
      ii. Administrative expenses being covered by DOAP
      iii. CARES Act funding will likely absorb majority of 4th QTR expenses.
         1. Funding allotments have been secured for LOTS & Greyhound routes.
            a. LOTS / Lee County: $3,767,840
            b. 5311F / Greyhound: $7,993,588
3.) New Capital Funding of Projects  
   a. $200 million REBUILD Illinois Program  
      i. Awarding of funding may come as early as this week  
   b. LOTS REBUILD Proposal: $2,794,702.50  
      i. Second administrative/maintenance location in Ogle County ($2,576,600)  
         1. Includes costs for architectural and engineering, purchase of property location, mechanical equipment and office equipment.  
      ii. Three (3) new Ford Transit Vans ($164,182.50)  
         1. One vehicle for expansion / Two vehicles for replacement  
      iii. Video surveillance cameras on buses, 4x/bus ($54,000.00)  

4.) FY 2021 Contracts  
      i. Applications including the following fund amounts...  
         1. 5311: $245,411  
         2. 5311F (I-88): $1,084,542  
         3. 5311F (I-39): $899,606  
         4. DOAP funding: $1,414,400  
         5. CARES Act / 5311: $3,767,840 (goes back to 1/20/2020)  
         6. CARES Act / 5311F: $7,993,588 (goes back to 1/20/2020)  

5.) Technical Assistance Grant / IDOT  
   a. Received word from IDOT that a contract for local project is progressing  
   b. Proposed initiative will assess the potential for a fixed route in Rochelle/Dixon  
   c. Award amount is $79,000  

6.) National Center of Mobility Management Grant  
   i. Planning portion of project ending in May, 2020  
   ii. NCMM has requested project implementation funding from FTA  
   iii. LOTS will likely receive implementation funding  

7.) Update on Capital Projects  
   a. Maintenance Garage/Wash Bay construction project.  
      i. Awaiting IDOT final walk through  
      ii. Signage in process  
   b. Canopy Project – front of Reagan Transit Center  
      i. Sjostrom and Sons awarded General Contractor bid  
      ii. Canopy scheduled to be delivered the end of August.  
      iii. Sjostrom intends to start footings for the canopy the week before.  
      iv. Sjostrom is reaching out to City of Dixon to confirm all drawings and permit  

8.) Claims vs. Revenue  
   a. REVENUE / 5311: $ 9,244.50 (for this month)  
   b. EXPENSES / 5311: $ 31,707.32 (for this month)  
   c. HUGHES: $ 40,421.15  
   d. CAPITAL: $ 0.00  
   e. EXPENSES / 5311F: $ 6,250.00 (Marketing of I-39/Greyhound route)  
   f. EXPENSES / 5311F: $ 10,000.00 (Marketing of I-88/Greyhound route)  
      $ 16,250.00
9.) Requisitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Received Y/N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5311</td>
<td>3rd Quarter</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>Expended in 1st QTR</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOAP</td>
<td>3rd Quarter</td>
<td>$431,590.40</td>
<td>Check received from IDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>5311F (I-88)</td>
<td>3rd Quarter</td>
<td>$297,694.59</td>
<td>Check pending by IDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>5311F (I-39)</td>
<td>3rd Quarter</td>
<td>$290,422.66</td>
<td>Check sent by IDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOAP</td>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
<td>$183,608.66</td>
<td>Requisition submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARES / LOTS, 5311</td>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
<td>$170,547.54</td>
<td>Requisition submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>5311F (I-88)</td>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
<td>$224,429.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARES / 5311F (I-88)</td>
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<td>$200,541.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>5311F (I-39)</td>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
<td>$62,016.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARES / 5311F (I-39)</td>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
<td>$309,660.04</td>
<td>Requisition submitted</td>
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**Ridership in Lee Ogle Transportation System**

![Ridership Graph](image)
H.E.W., Solid Waste & Veterans Committee  
Tentative Minutes  
August 26, 2020

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairwoman Bowers called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.  
Present: Asp, Droge, Finfrock and Fox.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Interviews for Funding Applications/Requests
   - Mental Health 708 Board: FY20 Allocated $978,550 / FY21 Requested $1,030,100  
     Kathe Wilson and William Sigler gave the presentation. Finfrock asked how the  
     pandemic has affected them. Bowers stated they continue to follow CDC guidelines,  
     doing interviews via telephone and Zoom however, will do in-person interviews in an  
     emergency. Finfrock asked if any programs would receive State reimbursement.  
     Wilson is unsure, some have been promised money from the State and others have  
     dipped into their reserves. Finfrock asked how many organizations have their own  
     Foundation Boards. Wilson state there are a couple. Asp asked if any of had to lay  
     employees off. Bowers stated some work from home. Fox asked when the 708 Board  
     sets their funding; Bowers stated they do it every May. Fox asked if they envision  
     their numbers increasing. Wilson stated some agencies have decreased while others  
     have increased. Bowers would disagree with Wilson as she sees an increase across the  
     board due to jobless, quarantine, etc. Sigler agreed, a lot has to do with the emotional  
     and physical state due to the pandemic. Bowers stated they spent the month of May  
     deciding the funding levels and she highly approves and recommends their requested  
     amount. With no further questions, Bowers informed them of the determination  
     process.
   - Rock River Center, Inc.: FY20 Allocated $70,000 / FY21 Requested $75,000  
     Jamie Nobis and Kathy Yocum gave the presentation. Finfrock asked much they  
     receive from LOTS. Nobis stated LOTS does subsidize a portion of the costs. Fox  
     applauds them for their work with LOTS. Nobis stated it has been a positive change  
     and everyone at LOTS is great to work with. Fox asked if they are in the  
     transportation business or activities. Nobis stated it is not their primary goal but it is a  
     service that is needed. Droge asked about their Veterans services. Nobis stated the  
     last few months have not been ideal; however, the VA assistant typically has a  
     waiting line. Asp asked if the Center is open. Nobis stated they currently have sign- 
     ups for activities but hope to reopen fully September 1st. Finfrock asked if they  
     received a donation to pay for the building. Nobis stated there is not a mortgage on  
     the property. Finfrock asked about the reserves. Nobis stated most of them are  
     restricted and their fundraising is down. Finfrock asked why a 6% increase request in  
     funding. Nobis stated they have an increase in transportation costs and have not been  
     able to hold their last 2 fundraisers. Fox asked how many other Senior Centers in the  
     County do they work with. Nobis stated most of them on a monthly basis, sometimes  
     more. Bowers thanked her for providing the service numbers. With no further  
     questions, Bowers informed them of the determination process.
• Byron Area Seniors: FY20 Allocated $2,000 / FY21 Requested $3,000
Norma Swanson gave the presentation. Fox asked how the pandemic has affected them. Swanson stated they usually are not aware of a decrease in attendance until the day of. Bowers asked if they are still paying rent for the use of the Jarrett Center. Swanson stated they are and it is $75 per meeting. It was increased a few years ago. Finfrock suggested they speak with the Director of the Park District; he does not like that they charge them rent. Fox would like an email with the outcome of the rent conversation with Byron Park District. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.

• Polo Area Senior Services: FY20 Allocated $36,000 / FY21 Requested $37,000
Donna and Randy Hayes gave the presentation. Asp asked how the pandemic has affected them. Mr. Hayes stated they have been able to get some remodeling done during this closure and just waiting on inspections to open back up hopefully next month. Finfrock asked for the current member numbers. Mrs. Hayes stated they have 162 members at $20 each for dues. Finfrock asked if they charge for programs. Mrs. Hayes stated they do take a donation on the meat they provide and sometimes the crafts. Fox asked if they interact with the Rock River Center. Mrs. Hayes stated they will send referrals if they cannot handle certain things. Fox asked if they use LOTS for transportation. Mrs. Hayes stated they do not on a regular basis; they have a local church that allows them to use their bus free. Droege asked if they owe on their building; no. With no further questions, Bowers informed them of the determination process.

• Soil & Water Conservation District: FY20 Allocated $40,000 / FY21 Requested $40,000
Sterling Taylor and Marcia Heuer gave the presentation. Asp asked about rain barrels. Taylor stated they could get some if a customer would like to purchase them, they do not have an inventory, as they were not selling enough. Finfrock asked how they help with suburban areas. Taylor stated they assist during flood and storm issues, even drainage issues. Bowers asked about abandoned wells. Taylor stated they do 1-2 a year, they are costly. The State law dictates they should be sealed off if not in use for 90 days or more. Heuer stated there are a lot of abandoned wells that need to be sealed. With no further questions, Bowers informed them of the determination process.

• Catholic Charities: FY20 Allocated $3,000 / FY21 Requested $3,000
Cathy Weightman-Moore gave the presentation. Finfrock asked if they have been doing window visits. Weightman-Moore stated it is very difficult to do a visit that way, currently they are able to do outdoor visits. However, some facilities are still restricting that, they have only been able to do outdoor visits at 1 facility in the County. Finfrock asked about their telephone call levels. Weightman-Moore stated the phones have been crazy from both residents and families. Finfrock questioned the number of beds verse active numbers. They have 9 facilities with 451 residents however, the population is constantly changing. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.
- Forreston Senior Friendship Club: FY20 Allocated $750 / FY21 Requested $750
  Cheryl Christians gave the presentation. Bowers reminded everyone that they were allocated the $750 last year because they missed the interview meeting. The request is to cover the cost of the meat provided at the meetings. Fox asked about the number of active members. Christians stated they have 18-25 members; they are having trouble getting people involved. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.

- Lifescape: FY20 Allocated $50,000 / FY21 Requested $60,000
  Mike Hughes gave the presentation. Droge asked why other Counties do not contribute funds. Hughes stated they provide an adult daycare and transportation services to Winnebago County in exchange for funding. Droge asked if they have seen an increase in meals; yes. Droge asked if he has pushed for more money from the other sources. Hughes stated he always asks for more money from Lee County and Winnebago County does not levy a tax for this. Fox asks what the qualifications are for the meals program. Hughes stated there is certain criteria however; the State has lifted that during this pandemic since they do not want people over the age of 60 leaving their homes. Fox stated his concern with Ogle County money going to subsidize programs in another county. Hughes reassured them that the money stays within the County; they are audited. Finfrock is disappointed with the contributions from Boone and Winnebago counties; why do you still offer those services. Hughes stated they are federally designated to offer those services and they do receive grants based on census numbers. Bowers questioned the Veterans Administration income of $40,000. Hughes stated that goes towards the adult daycare program. With no further questions, Bowers informed him of the determination process.

- Pegasus Special Riders, Inc.: FY20 Did not apply / FY21 Requested $3,000
  Donna Fellows gave the presentation. Finfrock asked how the money will be used. It will be used for training of their seniors and make the facility easier for them to get around. Also for food/beverages for their senior volunteers and PPE. Fox asked how many volunteers they have. They have too many since there are no lessons, they will never turn down a volunteer. Fox asked how citizens hear about it. They do have flyers but mainly word of mouth. Droge asked how many they serve. In a good year, they will have approximately 26 clients a week. Droge asked how many horses they have; 13. Droge questioned their fundraising. Last year’s fall event and this year’s summer picnic has been cancelled. They will be attempting a donation request letter that will be mailed out. Finfrock asked the number of seniors they have; 19. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.

- Mt. Morris Senior Center: FY20 Allocated $40,000 / FY21 Requested $43,000
  Melissa Nicholson gave the presentation. Fox questioned the cash on the balance sheet. Nicholson stated they have had to use some of their reserves, without the tax levy, they wouldn’t last long at all. They try to save as much as they can. Nicholson also stated they have formed a Finance Committee, which will be very beneficial in the budget process. Finfrock asked the membership numbers and dues. Approximately 230 members at $25 each. Finfrock asked if she has requested funds from Mt. Morris Township; Nicholson will send a letter. Asp asked if they work with Rock River Center. Nicholson stated they have a very good working relationship with them. They often will combine trips, meals, etc. Bowers questioned the decreased
contribution from the Village of Mt. Morris. Nicholson stated it must be a typo; they donate $3,000 every year. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.

- **Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center: FY20 Did not apply / FY21 Requested $7,000**
  Jessica Friday gave the presentation. Asp asked how the pandemic has affected them. Friday stated they continue to serve using social distancing and other protocol. They have seen a decrease in United Way funds along with a reduction in the fines/fees collected through the court system. Finfrock asked about the Board Restricted Checking. Friday stated the board governs what that money is used for; direct client services and enough to cover salaries for little bit. Finfrock questioned the number of clients; 200+ families. Finfrock asked if they have approached Lee County for funding. Friday stated she was unaware of this funding source for Ogle County until Bowers mentioned it; she will look into Lee County. Finfrock asked what the money will be used for. Friday stated it will be used for the counseling to cover the decreased in United Way funds. Bowers stated is in favor of the request, next year the request will be included with the Mental Health 708 Board. Bowers stated Friday is a tremendous asset to Shining Star and applauds her for all her work. Friday also mentioned that their fundraising efforts have been affected by the pandemic. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.

- **Hub City Senior Center: FY20 Allocated $54,500 / FY21 Requested $55,000**
  Connie Dougherty gave the presentation. Fox asked if they have seen a decrease in expenses with the shutdown. Dougherty stated they have been instructed to continue paying salaries and they have been working on inside maintenance items. Finfrock asked what the additional money will be used for. It will go towards preparation for reopening the center. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.

- **Ogle County Veterans Assistance: FY20 Allocated $76,000 / FY21 Requested $154,862**
  Ellen Katoll and Steve Korth gave the presentation. Bowers questioned the increase in funding. Katoll stated it is to cover her increase in hours and training; she is 6 months behind on claims. Asp asked what the $20,000 for Legal is for. Katoll stated some area VACs sent out a recommendation for budgets; it is there in case there was ever a lawsuit. Finfrock would like her to reevaluate that line and asked what the salary is base on. Katoll stated that is for 30 hours a week; she was previously budgeted for 20 hours but was working up to 25 hours. She has since gone back to 20 hours a week due to some health issues and stress. Finfrock asked what she expected from the job. Katoll stated she was hired for the Superintendent position and then she was approached for the VSO position also. Finfrock requested a copy of the Superintendent job description. Katoll stated she handles all the finances, payroll, telephone, etc. Korth stated the organization of the office has been hit/miss the last few years and they are trying to get an established office and get the word out to the Veterans in our community. The VAC is tough to do as a part-time job. Finfrock questioned the office hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9am – 3pm. Korth stated she also receives phone calls at all hours, manages the Facebook page and website. Fox
questioned what the Veterans received with the $11,000 increase from last year. It covered financial assistance, mileage, etc. Droege asked if the extra hours would get her caught up; Katoll stated it would help. Bowers stated she cut back her hours previously due to health/stress. With no further questions, Bowers informed them of the determination process.

- University of Illinois Extension: FY20 Allocated $142,500 / FY21 Requested $142,500
  Heather Coyle gave the presentation via audio. Finfrock asked why there is such a big difference in the various county contributions. Coyle stated DeKalb County does not have referendum, it is General Fund money. She has been trying to even out the percent each County contributes. Asp questioned the funding history difference; Coyle will look into that. Coyle asked the Committee if they had any ideas on service needs in our area. Finfrock asked if there are requirements for their programs. Coyle stated there is certain criteria such as cost, number of attendees, etc. With no further questions, Bowers informed her of the determination process.

The committee discussed their thoughts on all the agencies.

Byron Area Seniors: FY20 Allocated $2,000 / FY21 Requested $3,000
Motion by Finfrock to recommend an allocation of $2,100, 2nd by Asp. Motion carried.

Catholic Charities: FY20 Allocated $3,000 / FY21 Requested $3,000
Motion by Asp to recommend an allocation of $3,000, 2nd by Finfrock. Motion carried.

Forreston Senior Friendship Club: FY20 Allocated $750 / FY21 Requested $750
Motion by Asp to recommend an allocation of $750, 2nd by Fox. Motion carried.

Hub City Senior Center: FY20 Allocated $54,500 / FY21 Requested $55,000
Motion by Droege to recommend an allocation of $55,000, 2nd by Fox. Motion carried.

Lifescape: FY20 Allocated $50,000 / FY21 Requested $60,000
Motion by Droege to recommend an allocation of $55,000. Motion failed due to lack of second. Motion by Finfrock to recommend an allocation of $51,500, 2nd by Fox. Motion carried.

Mental Health 708 Board: FY20 Allocated $978,550 / FY21 Requested $1,030,100
Motion by Fox to recommend an allocation of $980,000, 2nd by Finfrock. Motion carried.

Mt. Morris Senior Center: FY20 Allocated $40,000 / FY21 Requested $43,000
Motion by Fox to recommend an allocation of $40,000. Motion failed due to lack of second. Motion by Finfrock to recommend an allocation of $41,200, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.

Soil & Water Conservation District: FY20 Allocated $40,000 / FY21 Requested $40,000
Motion by Asp to recommend an allocation of $40,000, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.
Polo Area Senior Services: FY20 Allocated $36,000 / FY21 Requested $37,000
Motion by Fox to recommend an allocation of $36,000, 2nd by Finfrock. Motion carried.

Pegasus Special Riders, Inc.: FY20 Did not apply / FY21 Requested $3,000
Motion by Fox to recommend an allocation of $1,500, 2nd by Finfrock. Motion carried.

Rock River Center, Inc.: FY20 Allocated $70,000 / FY21 Requested $75,000
Motion by Droege to recommend an allocation of $72,000, 2nd by Asp. Motion carried.

University of Illinois Extension: FY20 Allocated $142,500 / FY21 Requested $142,500
Bowers pointed out that the application was turned in 3 days late, which would entail a 1% per day penalty. Bowers would recommend an allocation of $140,000, which includes the penalty. Motion by Finfrock to recommend an allocation of $140,000, 2nd by Fox. Motion carried.

Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center: FY20 Did not apply / FY21 Requested $7,000
Motion by Fox to recommend an allocation of $0. Motion failed due to lack of second. Motion by Droege to recommend an allocation of $5,000, 2nd by Asp. Asp questioned their other funding sources. Bowers stated they do have other sources but they have been decreasing. Fox cannot support the funding; it is a stretch to show their support to the senior population. Bowers stated next year their funding would be through the Mental Health 708 Board. Fox still cannot support it; it opens doors for others to apply. Motion carried.

Ogle County Veterans Assistance: FY20 Allocated $76,000 / FY21 Requested $154,862
Motion by Bowers to recommend an allocation of $50,000, 2nd by Droege. Finfrock has concerns with that decrease. Committee discussed the need for the Legal line and if Katoll is bonded. Asp disagreed with that reduction as well. Motion failed. Motion by Bowers to recommend an allocation of $86,000, 2nd by Finfrock. Bowers stated that motion is based on last year’s expenses; she pointed out that they have not received a budget sheet for 2 months. It was also mentioned that she is 6 months behind on claims and how that is hurting the Veterans. Finfrock amended the motion to $80,000 allocation, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.

4. Adjournment: With no further business, Chairwoman Bowers adjourned the meeting. Time: 3:11 p.m.