

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: November 18, 2020

Authority Memo Number **033-2020 November 18, 2020 Regular Meeting**

The November 18, 2020 regular meeting of the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority Board was held via ZOOM meetings. Board Chair Bob Filotto called the meeting to order at 4:05pm Board members and staff were invited to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There was no public present on the ZOOM call. Present: Bob Filotto, Tim Broderick, Donnie Chestnutt, Jane Condon, Jeff Pierson, Kathy Trizna, City Liaison Pat Mudron and Legal Counsel David Silverman - Mahoney, Silverman, Cross Law Firm
Staff: Val Devine, Karen Leno

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authority Memo Number **028-2020 October 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Discussion and Vote: Prior to approval R. Filotto asked for an update on the water bill. Leno explained that Amber (water dept.) has provided more recent reading that indicate that we are back to “normal” usage. K. Trizna shared that several years ago they (Chicago St. Pub) had a similar issue with increased water bills that were incurred at the same time City was doing sewer work but in the absence of any proof that the city was the cause, the end result is they were liable for the billed usage. Filotto asked if it was worth Mudrons effort to speak with Ghedotte and Mudron agreed to do so. D. Chestnut suggested we present bills from years past to assist with the case. Leno stated that past bills would not correctly reflect our current “closed” situation. R. Filotto asked for an update regarding the stagehand memorial that had been discussed. Devine reported she had not, as of yet, followed up. With no other questions R. Filotto for a motion, once received he directed roll be called.

Motion: J. Condon moved and T. Broderick seconded approval of October 28, 2020 minutes as presented.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Trizna and Pierson

Nays: NONE

Public to be Heard Re: Agenda Items – No response.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Authority Memo Number **029-2020 November Operational Bills Paid, Payable and Payable Age Listing**

Discussion and Vote: K. Leno reported that the only questions received were from Chestnutt regarding checks to K. Stowkowski/P. Child. Leno clarified that these were ticket refunds for the Chicago concert. Leno also reminded that since the meeting is early in the month (due to Thanksgiving) there will still be more checks to be paid. Leno clarified that the \$1300 to the City was for our annual liquor license, \$365 to Will Co. was for our annual health certificate and the VenuWorks check was for management fees at the 25% reduced rate. The Chair invited discussion and, hearing none, he directed roll be called

Motion: J. Pierson moved and D. Chestnutt seconded approval of accounts paid in the amount of \$9,139.15 and payables in the amount of \$10,776.59 for November.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Trizna and Pierson

Nays: NONE

Authority Memo Number **030-2020 October 2020 Financial Statements**

Discussion and Vote: Leno reported nothing unusual on the report. Rental income includes Last month of Will Co. Courts. Same with the Balance sheet. Chair invited discussion and there was none. The Cash Flow Projection puts us into the next calendar year. The RSTF did receive \$2,000 from the Will Co. Cares Non Profit act which we were made aware of yesterday. Filotto asked for an update on the Small Business application and our status with Bronner (consulting group) communication. Leno and Devine reported we have not heard about our grant to Will Co Cares money in the amount of \$15,000 as we had to reapply (2 weeks ago) under VenuWorks of Joliet. Discussions with Bronner have stopped since they are now in the process of granting the monies. Filotto took the opportunity to move into discussion about the status of the additional 3 month Busey Bank loan "forgiveness extension" which has been proposed to be a loan \$110K to the Authority resulting in a net, net zero. After a review by the bank's attorneys they are questioning the legality of the "Authority" to borrow money based on legislation passed in 1978. D. Silverman added that he has been in conversation with M. Nolan (Busey) and he (Nolan) is going to go back to the attorneys to have another discussion to resolve concerns on both side. Filotto stated it was his thought that when the loan was originally issued, no discussion regarding the legal right for the Authority to borrow money was discussed and that this could be a bigger issue, internally at Busey, as we move forward. It is uncertain how any of this will impact our cash flow projection.

Motion:

AYES:

Nays:

BUSINESS ITEMS

Authority Memo Number **031-2020 Busey Bank Resolution**

Discussion and Vote: See above for discussion notes. Due to pending outcomes, it has been decided to readdress at the December meeting.

No vote or motion required

Authority Memo Number **032-2020 Progressive Energy (natural Gas/Electric) contract Renewal**

Discussion and Vote:

Leno reported that the original contract was signed by Devine and it is up for renewal in December 2020. In our recap call, the consultant recommended that we move all of our accounts to Summer Energy for a 48 month agreement based on supplier quotes. One of our previous suppliers uses historic usage to figure rates and our recent shut down would negatively impact a competitive rate. Condon asked how Progressive is paid. Leno reported we do not pay them directly. Chestnut asked about the possible savings with regard to gas as the electric savings we quoted at \$11,944. Leno said that due to past usage this year that number would be hard to predict. Filotto asked what the term is. Leno reported that while 48 was suggested by the consultant there are options to 12, 24, 36 and 48. After much discussion about prices going up and down and the minimal savings (per therm) from 12 to 48 months. The board asked that we inquire about early cancellation penalties.

Motion: A motion to table discussion until the December meeting was made by J. Pierson and seconded by D. Chestnutt.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Trizna and Pierson

Nays: NONE

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

RSTF Report: J. Condon had to leave the RSTF meeting early so Devine reported that the RSTF, due to lack of fundraising opportunities has decided to only pay themselves the interest on the Cy-Pres loan for 2020. With both the IAWL and Organ Concerts, pleas will be made for donations so hoping for some additional income there as well. The Board voted/approved an honorary board designation. In addition they will award a “Jim Smith Volunteer of the Year” award and while potentially drawing from the Rialto volunteers it could be awarded to others as well who have dedicated themselves to the Rialto. The first award will go to Jan Smith in Jim’s memory.

Next meeting for the RSTF is tentatively scheduled on January 13, 2020.

Executive Director's Report: We kicked off the “Say Goodbye to 2020” campaign and with one FB/Insta/Twitter and email we have collected \$3,955.65. Devine read some of the comments included with online donations. The Wrap up meeting with the JAHM for the “Flicks at the Prison” (which were ultimately cancelled due to COVID restrictions) that became tours at the prison will net each participant (JAHM and RST) about \$5,000. Devine gave special thanks to Greg Pierbolt for his generosity in sharing of all revenues for the evening, even their merch/bar sales. In an email exchange with Excelon regarding HFTH plans (as they are/were a sponsor) it was reported that when the response was that we weren’t doing anything was very positive and supportive. IAWL will be almost totally virtual with regard to the theatre, except for the organ as it plays a huge role in the event. Again, special thanks to WJOL for their willingness and dedication to this event. Organ concerts on December 4, 11 and 18 will be featured on the marquee for a month beginning next week giving each sponsors 2 weeks of recognition. R. Filotto asked for a final total on the J. Smith Memorial money collected and the total was \$4925.

Chairman’s Report:

Filotto reported that he and Devine had appeared before the City Council at which time it was requested that in the upcoming budget the Rialto receive the \$475K for 20-21 and the shortfall of \$237,500 from the 19-20 subsidy that we did not receive. Minus the amount (\$22,900) that the city agreed to pay for the audit leaving about a \$689k ask. Filotto asked if the audit had begun and Leno stated that documents have been being requested and loaded to a portal in preparation for the official start on November 30. Filotto then asked that Mudron update on the city’s budget. He reported that with the pending shut down of revenues from casinos (closing due to a regression back to stage 3) and possibly bar gaming machines that a revenue stream would be impacted. Since the city has no ordinances allowing the city to close any establishments, it would require the intervention of the State police. Plans currently have the first draft of the city budget being presented at the first council meeting in December on the 1st. City is appealing to the County to see if they can receive additional monies based on their size. Open board seat still remains a frustration. Anyone with any leverage to get this resolved is encouraged to do so. Projected cash flow relies heavily in February and March with the Busey bank decision as well as the city. December board meeting is December 16, which is early due to the holiday.

Committee Reports: No reports.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – No response.

Motion: Board Chair requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. D. Chestnutt moved and J. Condon seconded the motion.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Trizna and Pierson

NAYS: NONE

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Val Devine, Recording Secretary.

Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

*Unapproved minutes distributed in Board Packets are subject to change.
Approved minutes shall be posted on www.rialtosquare.com /Public Information/Approved Minutes.*