

**Hamilton County
Convention Facilities Authority (CFA)
Meeting Minutes**

To: CFA Board Members
From: Jeff Aluotto, CFA Secretary
Subject: Meeting Minutes: January 24, 2020

CFA Members Present: Gwen McFarlin, Paul Brehm, Kevin Hardman, Rahiel Michel, Pete Witte, Lawrence Hawkins, Adam Gelter, Dan Unger, Lee Czerwonka, Brendan Cull, Bimal Patel

Others Present: Jeff Aluotto, Roger Friedmann, Holly Christmann, Cindy Fazio, Nicole Lee, Brad Ruwe, Laura Brunner, Jim Downton, Julie Calvert, Chris Bingham, Ric Booth, Bridget Doherty, Marion Haynes, Lisa Anderson, Scott Wegener, Jay Hanselman, Lisa Smith, Bob Franz, Chris Wetterich, Randy Tucker,

1. Call to Order

Chair McFarlin called the meeting of the Hamilton County Convention Facilities Authority to order at approximately 3:06 P.M. Roger Friedmann conducted roll call and indicated there was a quorum.

2. Approval of March, November and December minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lee Czerwonka; motion was seconded. Roger Friedmann conducted a roll call vote. The motion approving the March, November, and December minutes was approved unanimously.

3. Review and Discussion on the Ninth Supplement to the Cooperative Agreement amongst the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, CFA and the Cooperative Agreement amongst The Port, CFA, and Hamilton County

Jeff Aluotto reviewed the history of the Millennium Hotel, the due diligence by The Port, and use of the County's residual transient occupancy tax to pay for debt service payments for the acquisition and demolition of the Millennium Hotel. Roger Friedmann stated that the cooperative agreement between the City, County, and CFA must be amended in order to use the County's residual occupancy tax.

Roger Friedmann reviewed the order in which the County residual funds will be applied:

- Sharonville Convention Center in the amount of \$1.3 million annually to pay debt service
- The Port (or the trustee for the Port Bonds) in order to pay debt service and miscellaneous costs associated with the Port Bonds
- Convention and Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$1 million to increase promotion of the Duke Energy Convention Center
- Projects that are consistent with convention and tourism in the amount of \$300,000
- Sharonville Convention Center in the amount of \$50,000 for maintenance

Brad Ruwe reviewed the Cooperative Agreement amongst The Port, CFA, and Hamilton County. The County residual transient occupancy tax will be used to support the debt service payments and

other administrative expenses associated with the 2020 bonds. While there is no specific dollar limitation on the amount of County Residual Funds (after payment of the \$1.3 million commitment to the Sharonville Convention Center) which is pledged to the bondholders of the Port Bonds, the amount of County Residual Funds to be transferred to the trustee for the Port Bonds is limited to the amount necessary to cover debt service on the Port Bonds and miscellaneous costs associated with the Port Bonds.

The committee members discussed the agreement, asked questions, and discussed risks. If the plan to use the County residual funds moves forward and there is not a plan to take out at least a portion with a revenue bond-based financing system or some other plan related to the hotel/convention center get to end of the interest-only period, it will erode a significant amount of capacity in the County's residual transient occupancy tax. The CFA was presented with information at the previous meeting that showed that, under conservative assumptions, the County's residual transient occupancy tax can meet debt service costs for an interim and permanent financing to fund the Millennium site acquisition and costs associated with demolition.

The committee discussed the need for the hotel/convention center project to be collaborative and all partners need to be communicative now and going forward.

4. Resolution Authorizing the Ninth Supplement to the Cooperative Agreement amongst the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and CFA

Kevin Hardman made a motion authorizing the ninth supplement to the cooperative agreement; Lee Czerwonka seconded it. Roger Friedmann conducted roll call and the resolution was approved unanimously.

5. Resolution Authorizing the Cooperative Agreement amongst The Port, CFA, and Hamilton County

Kevin Hardman made a motion authorizing the CFA to enter into a cooperative agreement with The Port and Board of County Commissioner of Hamilton County. Lee Czerwonka seconded it. Roger Friedmann conducted the roll call and the resolution was approved unanimously.

6. Other Discussion

Pete Witte requested a summary of the differences and similarities amongst CFAs in Hamilton County, Franklin County, and other large counties in Ohio. The Chair suggested setting up a sub-committee to conduct this research with County staff. Additional discussion on this topic will take place at the March meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is March 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Sharonville Convention Center

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

The foregoing is a summary of the activity taking place at the January 24, 2020 meeting of the Convention Facilities Authority. The foregoing is not an exact transcription of all conversations or discussions taking place during the meeting.