



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Bellefonte, PA 16823

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The public work session of the Board of Commissioners was convened at 11:05 AM by Chair of the Board Mark Higgins.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Amber Concepcion, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator John Franek Jr., and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel included Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Richard Killian, Norm Spackman, and Sheriff Bryan Sampsel.

Guests present included Kim Stank.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Kim Stank stated the top half of the spreadsheet she provided are revenue expenditures. The directly eligible projects are \$14 million, \$18.5 million are the revenue replacement projects, and the total allocation is \$31.4 million.

Kim stated the additional \$10,000 for covid testing at the CCCF was added. Additional directly eligible ARPA expenditures can be reallocated if need be. The prison walk-in freezer and concrete needed for the base of it is estimated around \$50,000. Kim stated HVAC systems are directly eligible for ARPA requests as well.

Norm Spackman stated the 911 renovations were estimated at \$900,000, which would include 911 tower building renovations, air conditioners installed at all the sites, as well as to help cover four current dead spots in the county that have no radio communication. Norm stated MCP will be able to get more solid numbers for all the repairs and quotes, but \$900,000 is an accurate estimate for all the repairs.

There are 2,692 radios that need re-programming, which is estimated at \$130,100 and the Sheriff's office radios are quoted at \$124,280. Sheriff Sampsel stated currently there are not enough radios for all of his staff. Norm stated with the new hospital that will be coming to Centre County, the EMS, fire and police radios will all need to be reprogrammed as well as more common talk groups within all the users.

Broadband infrastructure is currently at \$1 million. Kim stated we could change this to infrastructure, so it is not limited to just Broadband.

The Board agreed to move forward with the Sheriff's requests and the 911 radio reprogramming which would be directly ARPA eligible.

Administrator John Franek Jr. stated the additional ARPA requests that have been received are the Roland Theatre that is in need of general maintenance/renovations and are requesting \$100,000. Commissioner Dershem stated this requestor may benefit more from grants that are available. The Board decided not to allocate any funding today towards this request and would like to see the Theatre request/apply for available grants.

Another request received was from Centre Kitchen Collection for a food hub in Ferguson Township. Ferguson Township committed \$20,000 already and they are requesting a County match of \$20,000. Kim stated this request would fall under provision of government services.

Commissioner Concepcion and Commissioner Higgins agreed this is a good request and agreed to allocate the \$20,000 towards their organization, with Commissioner Dershem opposed.

Another request received was from Rock Spring Water Company to replace the water pipelines that service the rural area along Whitehall Road and were requesting \$1 million, with a total project cost estimated around \$13.5 million.

The Board decided not to allocate any funds at this time to this project and will add this request to the request list for the future.

Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation (PRC) is seeking \$200,000 for building renovations. It would also help renovate affordable housing apartments and serve as a workspace for employees. Commissioner Higgins and Commissioner Concepcion would like to allocate \$100,000 for this project, Commissioner Dershem was opposed.

The next request received was from Discovery Space: The Rivet to provide workforce development training for teens and adults as well as an education center for \$197,841.08. Commissioner Concepcion stated if the organization was able to find a grant and come back to ask for a small percentage match from the County, the request would be more feasible. The Board decided not to allocate any funds towards this project at this time.

Another request received was from Mountain Top Swimming Pool Association in Snow Shoe. They are requesting \$100,483.66 for replacement of various items and maintenance. Commissioner Higgins stated the diving boards to be replaced are quoted around \$13,000. The patching and painting of the pool and patching the baby pool, which are more critical for the operation of the pool totals around \$22,809. The Board agreed to fund the more critical needs of the organization and will allocate \$25,000.

Spring Creek Watershed Commission is requesting County match funds for the Spring Creek Watershed Phase 3. They currently have \$25,000 allocated for phase 3 and are requesting any County-matched funds to add to these funds. They did not specify on what projects the funds would be directly used for. The Board agreed since specific

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projects were not specified for the requested funds, no money will be allocated at this time.

Penns Valley Park and Rec is requesting \$100,000 for funding of the patching of the pool, fixing the concrete surrounding the pool, maintenance on pumps and filtration system, and paving of the parking area.

The Board agreed to allocate \$25,000 to this organization to be used towards more of the critical upgrades.

Three Dots is requesting \$100,000 worth of funds for an arts business incubator for artists and gallery space. Commissioner Higgins and Commissioner Concepcion agreed to allocate \$50,000 under provision of government services but would like to see a grant match.

Kim stated the total allocations are currently at \$33,166,601, directly eligible allocations are \$14,426,576.89, and \$18.7 million for revenue replacement projects.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 PM.

ATTEST:

John Franek Jr.
Administrator