



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 20, 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 11:19 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 present included Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Liz Lose, Ray Stolinis and Richard Killian.

Guests present included Kim Stank.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Administrator John Franek Jr. stated at a previous ARPA work session we received a request from Spring Creek Watershed Commission and the County requested more details on the project. John stated the Spring Creek Watershed Commission followed up on the County's request for more details and stated that the project is within its phase 3 startup and they don't have details for projects and programs for 2023 to share. They will provide information as they move forward with the project.

John asked the Board for future ARPA requests that come in if they would like the County's response to say that the funds are currently committed and if it changes, we can reach out to the organizations. The Board agreed to update the language on the letter for requests to let organizations know that the ARPA funds are currently committed.

Kim Stank gave a brief update of the ARPA funds. In about a month from now, the financial statements should be done, and the revenue loss numbers will be able to be shared with the Board. There are not a lot of changes since the last meeting to the ARPA project summary.

Liz Lose gave an update of the Broadband Project. The deadline has been extended until August 1, 2023 which the County will take advantage of and gathering more letters of support. Liz stated she is still waiting on the final figures from Centre WISP. John suggested the identified pool of funds could be identified as percentages instead of by dollars for the Broadband Project.

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John stated the idea is to advance the project without committing a set dollar amount aside for funding but setting aside a percentage of the allocated amounts.

Liz recommended to the Board for the two projects for Boggs and Curtin Liberty Townships to be the ones to contribute to.

Liz stated she will schedule a meeting in the future with Comcast and Centre WISP and the Board to finalize the funding questions the Board still have. Kim asked if every project is asking for the same dollar amounts and Liz stated they are not.

John spoke about the various generators for the Centre Crest Building and stated the small generator can run 24 hours on a tank of fuel while the larger generator can run for 12 hours on a tank of fuel, which are the two options for consideration. There is also a discussion with a battery backup for the generator. John is requesting the Board finalize on what size generator they would like to recommend for the Project so it can be relayed to the architect, and not hold up the design of the Project.

The Board would like to go with the small generator for life safety as well as a port for the portable generator that has the ability to power Elections and one or two other areas if needed.

Commissioner Concepcion wanted to know the status of the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation for building renovations ARPA funding and John stated we were waiting on the additional grant match for the project. Commissioner Concepcion stated the organization may be eligible for a loan. Commissioner Higgins asked if they could send more information on the project and what the loan would cover, and the Board could discuss what would be allocated by the County at our next ARPA meeting on July 18th.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 12:06 PM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator