



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, July 18, 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 11:00 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 Controller Jason Moser, Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Liz Lose, Ray Stolinas, Norm Spackman 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. gave an update on the Sheriff's radio equipment. The radios were ordered through Centre Communications for Kenwood radios.

Liz Lose gave an update on Broadband Expansion and stated the 25% match is what the Broadband Authority is looking at and Comcast is willing to accept any type of contribution from the County. Centre WISP is going to need more funding from the County since they are a smaller company. Liz stated the Haines Township/Penns Valley which is priority one zone and Curtin/Liberty Township is in priority two zone.

For Haines/Penn Townships Centre WISP is asking the County for a match of 15% or \$240,000. It would be harder to match the Curtin/Liberty project because that amount is so high, coming in at \$450,000 or 15% match request.

Applications are due August 9<sup>th</sup>, so Liz is asking what the Board would like to do for the funding so she can communicate with the companies.

Commissioner Higgins stated they could give either \$5,000 for Burnside/Snow Shoe project and \$10,000 for Curtin/Liberty.

Commissioner Higgins asked if the County funds up to \$240,000 for the first project for Haines and Penn Townships with Centre WISP and wanted to confirm if they get additional grant money would they have to contribute less towards the project.

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The Board agreed for a placeholder for County funds up to \$240,000 for Haines/Penn Townships Project and up to \$225,000 for Boggs/Union Project with Centre WISP and wanted to know if Centre WISP can come up with another partner or more funding opportunities. Liz will reach out to Centre WISP to see if this is feasible and will report back to the Board before the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Kim Stank gave an ARPA Project summary. There is just under \$6 million for directly eligible ARPA expenses. The revenue loss calculation is \$4.9 million dollars for revenue loss for 2022.

Kim is recommending expending the \$ 4.9 million on our report to show that the County has \$16.5 million expended under revenue loss and \$5.9 million under directly eligible items, which will get them to \$22 million expended which is 71%.

Once more information is received from Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation, they will let Kim know how to proceed with their ARPA request.

Norm Spackman gave an update on the radio reprogramming. They asked for a Fire Chiefs Committee to elect a representative as well as a Police Chiefs Committee to come up with a representative for a final plan to go live in January of 2024, after the Penn State Football season is over.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 11:39 AM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

John Franek Jr.

Administrator