



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, August 1, 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 11:02 AM by Chair of the Board Mark Higgins.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Amber Concepcion (Zoom), Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator John Franek Jr. and Staff Assistant Lisa Long.

County personnel present included Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle 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 that there was a discussion about suggested cleaning items for the cleaning crew. There is already a line item in the budget for these products and funds are directly eligible. The amount is within the allotted amount that was set aside for these products.

In 2022 the budget was structurally balanced using \$3.8 million allocated ARPA funds. Kim Stank stated that the deficit was only \$1.6 million, which frees up \$500,000 that was overcommitted. She suggested moving that to the provision of government services or putting it into the 2024 deficit. It will still be revenue loss money.

Commissioner Dershem stated that if there is some extra money, they could look into the Philipsburg YMCA to provide a freezer which could potentially be directly eligible.

John stated that they received a letter from Philipsburg YMCA that their funding was reduced. It was recommended that they reach out to food banks and other entities to see who is in need of a possible freezer for food.

Kim stated that they have \$481,000 allocated for Broadband. John stated that it was decided that they are allocating 10% with a not to exceed amount for Centre WISP projects.

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Commissioner Higgins stated that the current estimate for provision of government services for 2023 is \$22 million with \$9.4 million actually expended.

Commissioner Higgins asked Richard Killian to look into seeing if the County would be able to use ARPA money to cover the state cash flow situation.

Kim stated that there is some room to help cover the impact of the State budget crisis.

Kim stated there was a letter from PRC explaining how they are using funds for matching. Commissioner Concepcion stated they received some grants to help get the project started. The Board would like to move forward with establishing a contract with them. They do not want to include a timeframe of when things need to be completed but would like quarterly updates on the progress of the project. They would like funds to be utilized by December 31, 2024. Kim is going to get a contract drafted and then it can be brought in front of the Board for approval at an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting.

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 11:32 AM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator