



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, August 15, 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 11:17 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, Controller Jason Moser 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)

Kim Stank gave a brief update for ARPA, with currently \$9.4 million expended. The provision of government services was moved to the committed column and \$16 million under the expended column. Kim stated the Department of Treasury issued the Interim of Final Rule, which outlines the types of projects that are ARPA eligible. Kim stated not much has changed and she is hoping more information will come out in the future and plans to share with the Board.

Administrator John Franek Jr. there is an internal ARPA request from Human Services. Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman stated that the Human Services Block Grant funding expenditures indicates the County is over the contracted amount or internally the costs have exceeded what was budgeted. Natalie stated the residential programs are the highest costs and have increased. This is the first time since 2012 that the County needs more funding for the Block Grant due to the 10% cut of funding. Natalie stated they are proposing for Eagle Valley, to go back to January 1, 2023 and pay out of ARPA funds of \$351,187, which is the amount for one program for 6 months. Another provider is Strawberry Fields, and the County would go back to January 1, 2023 to pay \$112,742 with ARPA funds, which totals \$463,929 of ARPA funds for 6 months for both providers.

Kim stated there is some cushion amongst the committed columns for this internal ARPA funding request.

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Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$463,929 of directly eligible ARPA funds for mental health category funding to the MHID Department 561.

Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle stated that Faith reached out to multiple organizations and food banks to see if any food service equipment is needed. Faith will have each organization submit a written ARPA request if they are interested to submit for the Boards' approval.

John stated the EMA Department will be submitting an ARPA request in two weeks for their 10 radios to be replaced. They are currently no longer supported, and the batteries are discontinued. They are looking to switch to the Kenwood radios for the replacement of the radios. Commissioner Dershem suggested to ask MCP for guidance on Motorola radios.

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 12:05 PM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator