



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, August 29, 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 11:01 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, Richard Killian, Ray Stolinas, Xochi Confer, Norm Spackman, Chad Joyce, Mark Olson, Domer Smeltzer.

Guests present included Kim Stank.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

John stated at the last ARPA meeting there was discussion of the Emergency radios and the status of them.

Chad Joyce and Mark Olsen with MCP did some research of the radio life expectancy, which is about 5-7 years. Norm Spackman stated there is life expectancy for radios from 10-15 years that exist, but the current problem is that the parts to upgrade them are becoming nonexistent.

John stated the Motorola radios also need a license purchased for each radio, but Kenwood radios license fees can be transferred. Norm stated an average radio license is about \$900. Domer Smeltzer stated the Coroner's Office is currently using the Kenwood radios, but he personally is a fan of the Motorola radios which he has used for numerous years.

Commissioner Dershem asked what the cost difference is between Kenwood versus Motorola radios. Norm stated a new Motorola radio is around \$6,000 - \$8,000 each, while the Kenwood radios are around \$4,500 each. The County is responsible for about 400 radios that would need to be replaced. John stated various surrounding areas confirmed that they are going with Kenwood radios.

The Emergency Management Services Department submitted an ARPA request to purchase new Kenwood radios for their department for the Boards' consideration. The quote is \$30,178.68 through Centre Communications.

Kim stated this request will fall under directly expendable expenses.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the EMA request for \$30,178.68 for the purchase of radios as outlined in their quote from Centre Communications.

Julia Sprinkle stated there is no update on the refrigerator and freezer request for the local food banks. John stated the current figure is \$30,247.69 for eight units but we are still waiting to hear back from a few organizations that the County reached out to.

Xochi Confer spoke about the Presquile St bridge in Philipsburg that has been closed since 2019. Half of the bridge is located in Centre County and the other half is located in Clearfield County. The bridge itself is owned by PennDOT and is considered structurally deficient.

It was advised that Centre County apply for a \$200,000 grant for a study to be conducted for the improvements to this bridge and retaining flood walls. Applications are due on September 28th for the grant. Xochi explained Centre County would be responsible for a \$20,000 match and Clearfield County would also be responsible for \$20,000 match for the grant. Clearfield County has already said they would match \$20,000 to go towards this study. Centre County would then spearhead the grant writing process for this grant. There is also the Local Share Program, which is a non-match application, that the County could apply for. PennDOT will be removing and paying for the bridge to be taken out but will not be paying for the replacement of a new bridge.

The Board decided to recommend that they look into the Local Share Program and not apply for the grant study at this time.

Kim Stank stated the transfer for Centre Crest will be made from the ARPA fund to the debt fund.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to transfer \$2,900,000 from ARPA funding to cover the centre crest debt service.

Kim stated she looked more into what the expanded uses of ARPA funding that was recently released and there weren't many changes.

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 11:49 AM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator