



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, September 26, 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 11:15 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, Karri Hull, Dave Lomison, Ryan Smeltzer 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 the Rowland Theater previously requested ARPA funding to redo their lobby and a new concession area. The Board requested an itemized cost list from the Theater and John has not heard back from them yet. There is a new request from the Probation Department to replace eight radios in the department. Ryan stated four of the radios are three years old and the other four radios were purchased back in 2008. Ryan also stated that the Motorola radio parts for replacement are not made anymore. Ryan stated there are currently eight radios that are being shared for 22 officers in his Department.

Ryan stated a quote he obtained for one Kenwood radio is \$1,982.90 and it would be ideal to have each officer have their own radio, which would be about 18 portable radios that need to be purchased. The Board asked Ryan to check if there is a price differential if 18 radios are purchased and what are the lead times. Ryan will check with the vendor and report back in two weeks at the next work session.

Administrator John Franek Jr. stated the Correctional facility has a shared garage with the EMA Department that needs a concrete pad replaced. The current quote is about \$32,000 and Kim Stank stated this request will fall under the provision of government services in ARPA funding. Richard Killian stated the capital project funds could be utilized as well for this request. The Board agreed to fund the request through ARPA funding.

John stated the fencing/railing for the Courthouse retaining wall project was not a part of the original scope of work for the IFB. JG Contracting supplied an estimate of \$285,000 to \$325,000 for adding the fencing and safety railing to the Courthouse. John Franek Jr. asked the Board if they would like to proceed with the fencing and railing with ARPA funds or rather capital expenditures paid through the bond proceeds. The Board requested some more information regarding the funding for this item and will revisit this in two weeks at the next meeting. John will contact JG Contracting to let them know the County would like to move forward with the fencing and railing for the Courthouse.

John stated with the \$250,000 that was previously dedicated for direct Charlotte flights at the University Park Airport, it has become apparent that this flight will not be pursued in the near future mainly due to pilot staffing. John stated there are \$335,500 total funds held for this item with other participants that contributed funds. Richard stated the County will be refunding the participants' share of funds towards the University Airport item with the interest prorated. John stated the County's contribution of \$250,000 will be reallocated in the ARPA funds.

Karri Hull and Dave Lomison gave an overview of the vehicle request for the Human Officer position. Karri stated the Human Officer position plan is to be staged out of the Sheriff's Department and a truck will be needed for this position. Dave found a local vehicle in Altoona that fits what is needed for the position with a COSTARS price of \$51,617. Karri stated if the Human Officer position falls through, the vehicle if purchased could be used for snow removal if needed. Dave stated these particular trucks currently have a lead time of six to twelve months minimum. Karri stated there are additional accessories such as a radio, computer, cage for the animals, etc. that will need to be added to the vehicle if it were to be purchased for this position. The Board asked Dave to move forward with the purchase of the Ford vehicle and he will have the final request for purchase on a future meeting.

John Franek Jr. and Julia Sprinkle spoke about the local food pantries and non-profits providers' requests for the needed equipment that would qualify for directly eligible ARPA funding. Julia will follow up with the local food pantries and non-profits and have them submit a formal request letter for the equipment. The Board will make the final decision on the funding at the next work session meeting in two weeks.

Kim Stank and Controller Moser stated there is nothing additional to add regarding the ARPA funding spreadsheet.

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 12:17 PM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator