



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 10, 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 11:04 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 Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, 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 there was a request at our last ARPA meeting for replacing the Probation departments' radios. Ryan stated he reached out to Centre Communications, who does offer a 3 percent discount for bulk orders and it is about a 2-3 month turn around once orders are submitted. The quote received from Centre Communications for 18 radios and chargers was \$34,549.56, which was with the 3 percent discount. Kim confirmed the radios would be a directly eligible ARPA expense once this request is formally approved at a future Board of Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Dershem suggested ordering 20 radios and the extra two radios will not be programmed for the Probation Department and can be used as spares as needed.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve to fund with ARPA funding 20 radios with Centre Communications with 18 radios for the Probation radio and the remaining 2 radios will not be programmed.

John stated the total quote that received to replace freezers and or refrigerators for various food pantries is \$27,496.17, which will help seven different food pantries in Centre County. Kim stated the ARPA funds will fall under the provision of governmental services.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of refrigerators and freezers in the total amount of \$27,496.17 for seven local food pantries in Centre County with ARPA funds.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023
PAGE 2

John gave the Board an update regarding the purchase of the Human Officer vehicle, and this item will be moved forward and on a future Board of Commissioners agenda for approval.

John stated the Correctional facility garage floor replacement project will have to be bid out since the quote was over the bid threshold. John stated he attended an informational meeting with Gordian, which is a program similar to COSTARS that creates a bid packages on behalf of the County and develops a proposal for the contractors that are working under this company. John stated there is no cost to the County with this company and no commitment needs to be made. The Board agreed to have John contact Gordian for them to formulate a proposal for the Centre County Correctional Facility garage replacement IFB.

John stated the County received a request from Snow Shoe EMS requesting a \$300,000 grant. Commissioner Higgins stated there may be a State Grant available that may be able to help Snow Shoe EMS with their expenses. Commissioner Dershem asked to include that the Appalachian Regional Grant is more economic development based in the letter that will be sent to Snow Shoe EMS. John will contact Snow Shoe EMS and inform them that the Board of Commissioners can offer a letter of support for a State Grant and will also see if they will qualify for other grants.

Kim stated there are no significant changes in the ARPA report at this time.

Richard stated the checks have been processed for the Municipalities with the University Airport allocations and should be sent out in the near future. Kim stated the County's \$250,000 portion of the University Airport funds were moved under the Centre Crest Renovations – HVAC category.

John gave an update on Haines-Woodward Water Authority who has not given their UEI number to the County, which Controller Moser needs by the end of the month in order to submit our report. If we do not get the UEI number, the ARPA funds will be reallocated elsewhere. Commissioner Dershem suggested we send a letter giving Haines-Woodward Water Authority a deadline to get us the requested information. John stated he will be making a phone call this week as well.

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