



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 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 Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 11:02 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Deputy Administrator John Franek, Jr., and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

County personnel present included Controller Jason Moser, Terri Fisher, and Travis Walker.

Guests present included Kim Stank.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

ARPA Update

Kim Stank reported that there have been no changes to the proposed allocations. Nearly \$7 million has been committed with \$4.7 million expended.

Kim reviewed revenue replacements. The preliminary revenue loss calculations are historically just under a 4.1% annual increase. Calculated general revenue removes all Federal revenues, at this time it is calculated at \$5.5 million. All calculations are impacted by a few things such as the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) and the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) grant. Next year those numbers will be included in revenues.

There is a bill that passed the Senate and has moved to the House that puts a \$10 million flat revenue loss as a minimum. Margaret noted that it is possible that entire ARPA award could be moved to general government services based on revenue loss. Kim confirmed that there are some municipalities where their entire ARPA allocation is towards revenue loss.

Kim added that the allocation is to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and utilize by December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Pipe suggested meeting with PFM and other County partners regarding finances. With great rates, the County could borrow for Centre Crest and

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use ARPA for other expenditures. Commissioner Higgins agreed that some of Centre Crests cost should be borrowed to allow a large fraction of ARPA to be used to assist with County operations and large size projects that require County match money. Commissioner Dershem would like to be very careful about spending to maximize utilization of funding in the future.

Commissioner Pipe asked for confirmation that that \$310,000 of revenue replacement has been expended to date. Kim noted that revenue replacement does not have to be expended all in one year. Controller Moser added that some of the \$310,000 is already committed for the year end employee COVID bonus.

Kim stated that Centre Crest renovations such as the HVAC component, touchless sinks and toilets would be eligible directly through ARPA funds. In April or May 2024, preliminary numbers to obligate revenue replacement funds will be available.

Commissioner Pipe inquired if the State Treasury says ERAP should be removed from the calculation. Kim stated that she is still waiting on the final rule and answers to questions sent into the Treasury.

Commissioner Pipe added that there might be some other renovation projects to consider, once there is some certainty in knowing what borrowing will look like. The ARPA work session on November 9 will include discussion on infrastructure.

Commissioner Higgins asked that Deputy Administrator John Franek, Jr. gather costs for capital projects including, remodeling Centre Crest, Courthouse retaining walls, and the Willowbank building projects. John has reached out to the architect to determine costs for Centre Crest, which will be included in their final report.

Commissioner Pipe stated an infrastructure request has been received from Huston Township. John added that a letter was received in July and in October. The total request is less than \$10,000. Commissioner Pipe asked how much the Township received in ARPA funds. A response should be sent that there was no denial, but the County has received other requests and is waiting for more information related to passage of Federal infrastructure law. Margaret stated that the County has not made infrastructure allocations, other than CDBG, which would have been potential loss of funding due to impending deadline. The County has received over \$20 million in requests. John will draft the response.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator