



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, February 14, 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 11:03 AM by Chair of the Board Mark Higgins.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Amber Concepcion, Commissioner Steven Dershem, and Administrator John Franek Jr., and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel included Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle and Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman.

Guests present included Kim Stank and Corey Troutman (phone).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Administrator John Franek Jr. stated he received one request from Happy Valley Adventure Bureau (HVAB) relative to the Iron Man event that is occurring this summer in State College. HVAB is requesting \$25,000-\$35,000 from ARPA monies to help cover expenses for this event. Commissioner Higgins stated HVAB is in a better financial spot now than they were and stated it may be more beneficial to supply support from our 911 Department and possible transportation Department for this event.

Kim Stank asked if the budget software has been approved yet. John stated it will be approved on the Board of Commissioners agenda for February 21st. Kim asked how the software will be funded. Commissioner Concepcion asked if it will work alongside the new ERP system and John stated it will. John stated the software contract is an annual contract and is also pro-rated for the year 2023 and the County has the option to opt out 60 days prior if needed. John stated there will be a lot of analytic tools that come along with the software as well as a digital budget book and will substantially cut back on the manual input of the County's budget by the Finance team. Commissioner Higgins stated the software would be a good use of ARPA funds and could move the \$48,880 funds from proposed to committed.

Kim Stank stated the Centre Crest – post ARPA – other column is currently committed at \$2,990,285 for a placeholder for multiple capital projects that are in the works.

Commissioner Dershem stated the Courthouse retaining wall project may be at \$2 million or more.

Kim asked if the future internal Courthouse renovations that are associated with the three-year capital plan should be budgeted as well. Commissioner Higgins asked if the 911 radio upgrades could be ARPA-funded eligible. Kim stated she would do some research to see if that expense would be directly eligible or not. Commissioner Dershem stated the radio upgrades/replacement could be several million dollars. The Board decided to leave the line for the courthouse renovations but hold off on the amount for now.

Commissioner Dershem asked if we could have an idea of various grant opportunities that may be available in the future for revenue loss. Kim stated that in 2023 it will be the last year to do the revenue loss.

Commissioner Concepcion asked if we could go through the capital projects list and determine what projects would be ARPA eligible and the County could prioritize those projects.

John asked if we wanted to do anything with the Local Assistance Tributary Consistency Fund (LATCF) for the Valentine Street houses.

The Board decided to look into the LATCF more at our next ARPA meeting. Julia Sprinkle stated we are currently reaching out for bids for this project as well.

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 11:39 AM.

ATTEST:

John Franek Jr.
Administrator