

MINUTES
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT COMMITTEE
MARCH 24, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 1A
Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center
One Hamilton County Square
Noblesville, Indiana

President Dillinger called the Commissioner meeting to order declaring a quorum present of Commissioner Christine Altman, Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt, and Commissioner Steven C. Dillinger.

The ARPA Committee Council members present were Brad Beaver, Steve Schwartz, and Amy Massillamany (virtually thru Teams).

Minutes

Heirbrandt moved to approve the February 17, 2022 minutes. Beaver seconded. Motion carried with Dillinger and Schwartz abstaining.

ARPA Funding Requests

I. Application #61 – Jackson Township - \$35,864

Heirbrandt asked Mr. Todd Clevenger to summarize the application from Jackson Township. Clevenger explained it is for the volunteer fire department. Heirbrandt thinks this is a legitimate request. Clevenger noted they had increased costs with their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for their COVID runs and assumes they have not been reimbursed for those costs. Altman noted they could have applied through Emergency Management (EMA) and received full reimbursement, that is the problem. She does not know if they can still apply through EMA for full reimbursement. That should be reimbursable through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) with Clevenger agreeing. Beaver does not see PPE on the application but sees overtime wages, testing, training, and technology. Altman does not know how this is COVID related. Clevenger noted overtime could be COVID related with the extra runs because of COVID.

Altman suggested they seek reimbursement through FEMA on the PPE, she did not see any other additional costs. Altman asked if they are independent or part of Jackson Township? We did give Wayne Township some funding, but they are a separate non-for-profit which is why they qualified. They are a separate entity, and they have contracts.

Dillinger asked if it is the township or the volunteer fire department requesting with Beaver replying the organization's name states Jackson Township, Hamilton County. He is assuming the fire department is part of Jackson Township.

Altman stated on all the township requests she is making a blanket statement that they all got a significant relief through the rental assistance. Full disclosure she represents two (2) townships so she

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will not be voting on any of them. Their numbers were really good because their assistance levels went really down which is why she is having problems giving out our limited dollars when they have already received other federal dollars that should have offset any budgetary needs. She knows from the townships she represents their assistance numbers were way down.

Dillinger asked where do you want to go with this? Schwartz asked looking at the application it says overtime, wages, testing, training, and technology. Does anybody have any information with Beaver interjecting what does that mean, no. Beaver is voting no. Dillinger asked if anyone wants to make a motion? Beaver moved to deny. Heirbrandt stated given the information that they should have applied for FEMA dollars, he would encourage them to do it, he agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Altman and seconded the motion. Dillinger asked if that means if they came back with some kind of a different explanation we would re-consider it? Schwartz and Heirbrandt would support that if they come back and defend what this is. Dillinger noted there might be an explanation.

Altman suggested on all the townships that we request what their budget numbers did on assistance. Heirbrandt withdrew his second thinking this should be tabled. Beaver agreed. Heirbrandt moved to table. Beaver seconded the tabling motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Beaver asked how long is the portal open for townships, he thought it was closed. Mills explained this was an application received early on. Councilor Maki asked that the township requests be brought to the committee. Requests on the list include Town of Atlanta, Auditor, and Council on Other Drugs since they have to do with Hamilton County applications, we are allowing those to be added to the list because that is different than a township request. These requests are county dollars by county departments. Anything with a 200 is after the fact, right now the portal is closed. Beaver confirmed these requests were made before the portal was closed? Mills replied yes. Altman confirmed they were all timely.

II. Application #137, Flora Mendenhall Drain - \$637,000

Heirbrandt explained the initial application was for \$275,890. As this was put out to bid and when they were investigating they found additional problems with an additional arm on this drain with the low bid coming in at \$637,000. We need to decide if we should fund this today so we can get moving on it. This is a critical drain with a lot of issues. The scope was increased to include the arm. After speaking with the Surveyor, he feels comfortable approving it. Beaver is not opposed to giving them more money, do these people get an increase in their assessment like the people on Promise Road? Heirbrandt replied that is what they have been doing. Beaver confirmed they will raise their drainage assessment for this project. Heirbrandt moved to approve. Schwartz seconded. Beaver confirmed what is the dollar amount?

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Mills confirmed the initial application has not been approved. This project will total \$637,000. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Application #176 Westfield Washington Township - \$800,000

Mills confirmed this is the McGregor Park bank stabilization. Altman asked if this is a fully regulated drain, it is the Linley Drain. It would be a reconstruction under the drainage (board). Heirbrandt has not seen this on the list with Altman adding she has not seen it on the list noting in full disclosure she knows there are discussions between county parks and Westfield Washington about transferring the McGregor Park to the county. It was supposed to be a county park to begin with, years ago. When Mrs. McGregor passed away the county did not have the money to fulfill the commitment, so Westfield Washington Township took it over. She is not advocating for or against, she is just giving the facts. Heirbrandt would feel more comfortable having the Surveyor present this rather than the township. Heirbrandt moved to table. Beaver seconded Motion carried unanimously. Heirbrandt will go to the Surveyor and to the trustee and try to get them together on this.

IV. Application #177 Westfield Washington Township - \$25,474

Clevenger noted this is for revenue reduction recovery, they were unable to offer parks programs during COVID and they are asking to recover their lost revenue. Beaver moved to approve. Schwartz seconded. Motion carried with Altman abstaining.

V. Application #184 Delaware Township - \$94,941

Clevenger stated this is for revenue recovery because they had to shut down their community center during COVID. Massillamany moved to approve. Beaver asked if they reviewed the adjoining paperwork? Chavez confirmed this is the only paperwork submitted. Beaver confirmed there is no supporting paperwork for the request noting the submitted paperwork is not really showing a reduction. Heirbrandt asked Clevenger if this qualifies with Clevenger replying yes, revenue replacement qualifies. Beaver wants evidence of lost revenue; they could be pulling a number out of the air. Did they show 2019 against 2020? Clevenger stated what they did was everybody submitted the exact same paperwork and then how the committee went through this before if they moved to the approved pile we requested additional documentation to back it up. Every application coming in this way is without backup documentation. If the committee deemed it was worthy of another look then we reached out to them to get additional information. Beaver thinks it is worthy of another look. Altman thinks on any of the township things, let's be consistent. This is the same thing that Westfield Washington asked. Schwartz moved to table. Massillamany noted she moved to approve and did not know if there was a second.

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Dillinger noted there was not a second with a motion to table which takes precedence over the motion to approve. Beaver is in favor of getting more documentation. Dillinger needs to know if we have a second for the tabling motion. No second to table. Beaver does not know the procedure, previously we give them an approval and then they come back with more documentation? Clevenger explained the committee put some applications into the don't qualify category and some in the qualify category that warrants further review. The warrants further review pile they would request further documentation to be reviewed at the following meeting. Beaver would like this to go into warrants further review. Altman thinks we need to look at overall expenses which is what she has said before. On all the township requests is what happened to their assistance budget and did that offset some of these other losses, because we are running out of money. Dillinger asked why are they on the agenda? Heirbrandt answered because they originally applied. Mills explained at the last meeting Councilor Maki requested the townships be brought back to the committee for review. Altman thinks we need to discuss it and if they truly had a revenue loss then we decide the importance of the revenue loss. Dillinger stated we can't determine if they were reimbursed from another fund or had a revenue loss or not in this committee. Heirbrandt and Altman replied then we ask them for more information. Dillinger stated it should be put on the next agenda, not this one. Altman stated we don't know we are spinning our wheels until we have the discussion, so we are here to discuss it. She does not want to be hard on anybody for putting it on the agenda. Beaver would feel more comfortable in voting in favor if we had more information. If that requires tabling he is fine and willing to second it. Heirbrandt thinks we can make a motion to table it and ask the grant administrator to gather further information. Altman asked to be consistent with all the townships. Heirbrandt agreed. Altman thinks any township request should show supporting documentation. Beaver stated any township gets another review.

Beaver asked how much cash do we actually have that is not committed? Heirbrandt answered \$2,221,463,53. Mills replied that is the total of today's request if approved. Available cash is \$2.8 million. If they were approved today there would be \$628,000 available. Beaver asked when is the next check expected? Mills replied it should be in May but we still have money for these requests.

Dillinger asked if they want to table all the township trustees for right now, is that correct? Beaver replied yes. Dillinger asked to go back to application #61 from Jackson Township, move to untable it. Beaver stated all it requires is the staff to go back and get further information. Dillinger stated you want to do this with all of them so let's untable that. Beaver replied not especially. Dillinger asked what Beaver wants? Beaver is willing to consider additional information for revenue replacement.

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Mills reported we have tabled #61, Jackson Township, tabled #176 for Westfield Washington, approved \$25,000 for Westfield Washington, you want to table Delaware (#184) and she is hearing you are charging the sub-committee to go back to each of these and ask for supporting documentation on why they are requesting funds. Mills confirmed with Altman that she is wanting assistance to the budget, can you clarify what you want from them? Altman confirmed what they budgeted in 2020 and 2021 verses what they expended in assistance. Mills stated with that being said all Commissioner Dillinger needs to do is take a motion for application #184 and the sub-committee will go back with what you want, and we will bring it back to the next meeting. Heirbrandt so moved. Beaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Application #203 Town of Atlanta - \$500,000

Heirbrandt brought this up at the last two meetings because they did not submit an original application. They have come up with a wastewater project with Clevenger reviewing it. It meets all the requirements and we have not used any ARPA dollars in the Town of Atlanta. They are investing \$1.5 million of their own money on two stormwater projects and have requested \$500,000 to help with this project. They are having issues with IDEM and this is a worthy project. Altman confirmed this is combined sewer, both storm and wastewater? Heirbrandt confirmed that was correct. Schwartz moved to approve. Altman seconded. Beaver asked if they know how much the jetpack truck costs? Heirbrandt replied we are not paying for that, he told them the truck is their own deal. The ARPA funding will be applied to the water and wastewater and we will not be buying a new truck but it is included in the project. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Application #204 Auditor - \$110,184.53

Beaver moved to approve. Heirbrandt seconded. Mills stated this application is for Phase II of the office remodel project. Mills noted the Assessor will be submitting a similar application for an office remodel at the next meeting. Altman asked if these are estimates? Mills replied these are actual. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Application #205 Hamilton County Council on Alcohol & Other Drugs - \$18,000

Clevenger stated they are applying for another grant through DMHA to support the COPE Grant which ended last month. They need three months of gap funding to pay the COPE coordinator until we find out if the DMHA grant is awarded. Beaver asked if this request qualifies? Clevenger replied yes it does. Beaver moved to approve. Heirbrandt seconded. Altman asked what are we going to do if they do not receive the grant? Mr. Mike Thibideau believes the county council, at their last meeting, approved the gap funding for continuing support of the position. Motion carried unanimously.

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Next Meeting – April 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Altman so moved. Heirbrandt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Rotation Loop

- a. Alexander, Maki, Beaver (April 20th)
- b. Nation, Maki, Beaver (May)
- c. Massillamany, Maki, Beaver (June)

Discussion Items

A. Housing

Altman reported they are working housing. They are trying to get an RFP out on the CDBG funds that were set aside. There will probably be a mention in that of possible funding out of this grant, but she has explained to the group that is working on it that this is not the intent of these funds but if something spectacular came up we should consider it.

B. Bakers Corner

Sullivan reported it is getting to the point where the timeline of how long the construction of the actual project will take and also if the committee and the county wants to meet the needs of the National Guard Armory that is being constructed at 276th Street. It is coming to the point that if we don't start the process with design, engineering, permitting, etc. we will miss or go over the 2026 deadline. We have an idea that we can do a BOT (Build Operate Transfer) using ARPA funds which will give us a guaranteed maximum price so we don't have to come back for more funding and will fit the timeline. The biggest ask is for the initial buildout of the project for the sewer treatment plant and infrastructure for that comes in at about \$25 million. This is all permitted use of ARPA funds if we could get some kind of idea if that is an appropriate ask from the Committee today then we can get the BOT started, permitting started, design, etc. and start courting everything else after that. This would give us a starting point to move forward knowing how much money we have to work with and get that part of the project done. Altman stated ultimately, full disclosure, she does not know if we want to use all ARPA funds on that or do some type of bond to get it going. If we can commit \$25 million then we can go through the permitting process. We can then work with the state for additional funding to see if they are willing to put skin the game to get up to 276th Street. If we are willing we can start a contract with design with Wessler Engineering to keep everything moving forward. The worse case scenario is we have spent money on design and permitting and don't do the project, but we will still have stuff. The cost to keep it in Bakers Corner is an additional \$18 to \$20

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million for an estimated total of \$24.8 million. Beaver stated he spoke with someone who told him there is no water on that side of US 31. Altman replied they will have to bring water to either side. Sullivan noted we will have to purchase wholesale. Beaver confirmed it is not a water producing plant it is pipes to transfer it in. Sullivan confirmed it is essentially pipes to transfer it in and there is a change there is water farther north that we could test drilling to figure out if it is viable. For that immediate area there is no water in that area. Beaver asked if this is an agenda item for the joint meeting? Altman replied it can be with Sullivan noting it can be but the timeline is why he wanted to bring it up today. Beaver is not opposed to committing \$25 million of future money that we do not have yet. Altman thinks in theory we can do that and start the process because we have been promised the funds. Beaver would like this on the joint meeting agenda just to bring everyone up to speed. Sullivan noted there will be several options provided. Heirbrandt asked when do we need to allocate the funds? Sullivan replied if you want to do the sewer plant and infrastructure it would be \$25 million and then at that point if you did want to do water we could figure out other financing mechanisms or partner with the state. Beaver asked what are we promised, \$32.5 million? Clevenger acknowledged yes. Schwartz moved to approve. Heirbrandt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Altman thinks the only funds committed out of the second half is \$2.5 million for housing.

C. Broadband

Altman reported economic development held an executive committee meeting and Mr. Thibideau is being pulled multiple ways and we need to talk about ARPA dollars and if we want Thibideau to manage a contract on broadband. Heirbrandt stated he and Sullivan met with OCRA and they advised us to not use ARPA dollars for broadband. Altman is just saying to manage if we can and this is a Todd (Clevenger) question. We do not want to use ARPA dollars for broadband, but we have to figure out how we implement other dollars and chase other dollars and figure out how we get the broadband money in. Heirbrandt asked Thibideau what he suggests. Thibideau reported he met with Sullivan after the last conversation with OCRA and based on that in-depth discussion he drafted a scope of work related to the deliverables that are about to occur to meet OCRA's timelines. Thibideau does not have the bandwidth to do that and his current workload so either things would need to come off his plate or we can hire somebody like KSM to manage components of that program. Altman offered that Thibideau could run the show with Heirbrandt asking Thibideau to get a proposal from KSM and bring it back to us.

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D. 4H Fairgrounds

Beaver asked when are we expecting something on 4H, some kind of design or something?

Heirbrandt replied they just reviewed the master plan last week with four different options presented.

Councilor Alexander was present. They have some things to do but we will discuss this during our joint meeting with information to present to the Council at that time.

Altman moved to adjourn. Heirbrandt seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

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Present

Christine Altman, Commissioner
Steven C. Dillinger, Commissioner
Mark Heirbrandt, Commissioner
Brad Beaver, Councilor
Steve Schwartz, Councilor
Amy Massillamany, Councilor (virtually via Teams)
Robin Mills, Auditor
Connor Sullivan, Assistant County Attorney
Todd Clevenger, Auditor's Grant Administrator
Jennifer Chavez, Auditor's Grant Administrator Deputy
Lauren Powell, Auditor's Accounts Payable Deputy
Kim Rauch, Auditor's Administrative Assistant
Mike Thibideau, Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation
Nancy Ramsey, Family Promise
Amy Jacobsen, Noblesville Housing Authority
Mary Shaw, Noblesville Housing Authority

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APPROVED
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Christine Altman
Steven C. Dillinger
Mark Heirbrandt

ATTEST
Robin M. Mills, Auditor

Date Approved: 4/25/22