

MINUTES  
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
And  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT COMMITTEE  
APRIL 20, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 1A  
Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center  
One Hamilton County Square  
Noblesville, Indiana

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT COMMITTEE**

Commissioner President Dillinger called the Commissioner meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. declaring a quorum present of Commissioner Christine Altman, Commissioner Steven C. Dillinger, and Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee members present were Brad Beaver, Steve Nation, with Sue Maki joining virtually via Teams.

**MINUTES**

**Approval of Minutes**

Beaver moved to approve the minutes of March 24, 2022. Altman seconded. Motion carried with Maki abstaining.

**FUNDING REQUESTS**

Ms. Robin Mills reported the remaining budget for Phase 1 is \$2,400,432.43. Applications for consideration today include:

- Wessler Water Availability Service (Taft invoices) for \$66,843.69. Heirbrandt moved to approve. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 276<sup>th</sup> Street for \$1,370,454.89. Heirbrandt moved to approve. Beaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Assessor's office reconfiguration for \$292,545.27. Mills noted Steve Wood is in favor of this project and asked if the Committee would be willing to set aside \$750,000 to finish the remaining offices in the historic courthouse (Auditor – 2 offices, Treasurer, and Recorder). This amount is for furniture with Buildings & Grounds paying for new lighting, painting, and carpet. Altman does not understand why we are using ARPA funds, it should be paid from the Cumulative Courthouse fund. Clevenger stated the reason we are using ARPA funds is to spread out staff for health/safety reasons. Altman thought we had already done this when the outbreak started with partitioning, etc. What additional enhancements are we doing? Clevenger replied the enhancements were for the public access areas (front counters), it never made it to the staff work areas. The new plan is to build the workstations with higher walls for separation. Altman recalls discussing with employees that we were separating people for their own health, that never was done during the pandemic? Mills replied some offices did what we could, but we focused on serving the public. We came back and updated the layout and furniture for the Auditor's Real Property Department with Wood offering to pay for the lighting, painting, and carpet from his

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maintenance budget noting this has not been done since 1992. Altman understands but that is not pandemic related. Mills explained the Buildings & Grounds costs are being paid out of the Cumulative Courthouse Fund. The Assessor is requesting the reconfiguration of her office to spread her employees apart. Heirbrandt reiterated because of the \$10 million unrestricted process we put on these funds he confirmed this is an allowable expense of the ARPA funds. Clevenger replied it is, this does not fall under the \$10 million restriction. Mills believes the Treasurer is currently working with Buildings & Grounds to prepare a request for her office. At this point if ARPA funds can not be used it would go to the Council to be paid from other funding. Altman asked whay is the total cost, over \$750,000? Mills stated for the Assessor's office. Altman has a problem with the dollar amount given what we are looking at what we are looking at building across the street. Mills asked if they are going to move these offices out of the historic courthouse to the Judicial Center or will the buildout be just for judicial services? Altman replied it is not all for judicial, she presumes it would be built as designed and we would have a whole first level as designed which moves everyone to the judicial center and she does not want to spend money on furniture again. Heirbrandt noted the furniture may be useable in the new buildings. There is a Cumulative Courthouse Fund that is specifically for this type of project. Mills does not know what Wood has planned for that money. Dillinger thinks this would be a waste of money if we are going to build onto the judicial center. Mills stated she does not have a vote, and this is the reason it is here. Altman moved to table. Heirbrandt seconded. Altman, Dillinger, Heirbrandt, Nation, and Maki approved. Beaver opposed. Motion carried. Altman would like more information, possibly walk thru the office, and see if there is something less expensive that could be done.

**Next Meeting Date** – May 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

**Housing**

Altman reported the RFP is out there for affordable housing. Sullivan understands there are different permitted uses for each of the funds, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and ARPA. The CDBG RFP has been advertised, the ARPA RFP has been drafted and approved from a legal standpoint, he does not know if it has been advertised. ARPA has two years. Altman wants the housing coalition to get together to determine what is the best use of those funds and they have not had a meeting since the funds were allocated. Ms. Nancy Ramsey reported the CDBG RFP is due next week. Sullivan noted ARPA funds have until the end of 2024 to be allocated and the end of the first quarter of 2027 to be spent. Sullivan confirmed the pending items under his name on the agenda have occurred and asked if

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they could be moved off the agenda. Altman asked Sullivan to prepare a memo stating what the ARPA funds can and cannot be used for.

**Tabled Items**

Mills stated there was some confusion on the information that was being requested from the township trustees with Mills confirming that information is in the minutes. What the sub-committee asked for is what the ARPA Committee asked for; with the help of Sue Maki and Christine Altman we finally got to what information Altman wanted. Altman is not sure we have received that information, she thought she would receive a separate report that said all the townships that requested their assistance budget for 2019, 2020, and 2021 which is "x", with the expenditures out of the assistance related to those years which is "y", to see whether they were close to budget or if it dramatically dropped. That would show that the ARPA or CARES money that came in to supplement the Westfield Washington Trustee has dramatically lowered that expense. The township assistance comes out of the townships general fund. Altman asked the Trustees that were present if they had any questions about what she thinks is helpful, so we know if indirectly you were benefiting your budgets because of the rental assistance funds. Maki knows the Delaware Township request was to replace the lack of income from the rental of their community center. Westfield Washington has an application submitted for a drainage project. Altman stated the point she is making is their assistance budget, when looking at a township budget, is part of their general fund levy. It will affect how much you can pull on your levy limits so they had a significant savings because of other federal dollars and those monies could be applied for some of these requests, that is her point. It may not be significant but that is our due diligence to look at given it is not across the board on what these requests are. Heirbrandt thought the whole purpose of why we tabled it at the last meeting was there were some concerns, especially with the audit process by the federal government was to make sure that we had substantial documentation to accurately approve the request. Altman disagreed; it was to figure out if there was a net loss of funds. The committee can all override that, but she thinks if there was significant money saved because of other federal dollars that we made everybody else account for that. We made all the not-for-profits say what other funds they received and that is an indirect federal funding that could be saving them or not. Altman will not be voting on it because she represents townships.

Ms. Debbie Driskell thanked the committee for hearing this and appreciates all the work that everybody has been doing. Her concern is when looking at just the township assistance budget as funded you would miss part of the picture, in other words the loss came from our township general it would be comparing the highway department with a total different operation with totally different funding. Those funds are segregated, once they are put into the township assistance that levy is set aside and can not be used to

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offset the losses on the general operations side. Altman confirmed that is correct but typically when she does township budgets she adjusts that the following year. If she had a surplus in assistance then she does not put the general fund levy, she does not put LIT in assistance, and it shifts from year to year. Driskell asked, now that she understands more clearly what she is asking for, she would like the ability to demonstrate that, she has not sent in 2019. Altman noted 2019 does not really affect this but has the history of budget verse expenditures. Driskell agreed she would need 2019 to see the impact. Altman confirmed she needs 2019, 2021, 2022 budget and what did they spend so we can see whether your spending went down dramatically, and she would presume it is somewhat related to the federal funds that were pushed over to the rental assistance/utility assistance program. Ms. Danielle Carey Tolan noted from 2020 to 2021 there was only a \$7,000 difference. Altman stated that is fine but we have the documentation. Ms. Robyn Cook stated she receive verification with Todd on this, her request had nothing to do with the general fund, she was specifically seeking reimbursement on the fire side of things. Altman stated the way the budgets work you can use your LIT anywhere, you can allocate it to fire or to general. We asked this for everyone else and thinks it was appropriate to request the same from the townships. Altman noted Cook showed just her disbursements, she needs to see the budgets, general and assistance budgets only.

Mills confirmed they understand what they need, the other request is the Westfield Washington Township request is for the drainage ditch. Heirbrandt asked if this has been discussed with Kenton Ward, this is a drain. Tolan Cary reported no one has contacted her, she did not know she was to contact someone. Heirbrandt stated this is clearly a drainage issue and needs to go through the Surveyor. Altman stated they will bring this up during the drainage board meeting. Tolan Carey noted she also submitted another request with Altman confirming that was correct, the loss of revenue. Heirbrandt asked if that has been substantiated? Tolan Carey replied she applied but has not heard back noting it was \$25,000. Mills noted that was approved at the last meeting, we are waiting on the County Council approval of the transfer.

Heirbrandt asked the Trustees if they understood what they needed to provide? Driskell would like to provide more information explaining what actually happened.

Altman asked if Ms. Cook received reimbursement through EMA? Cook replied she did not ask for that reimbursement, she thought she had a better chance of receiving funds through this committee noting EMA reimbursement was at 75% with this funding at 100%. The portal was so cumbersome, so she thought she had a better chance through the county. Altman noted the EMA funding is different money, if that portal is still open she should make that request because that is 100% that we can use on other

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things. Cook stated the largest portion of her request was payroll and benefits that they paid for overtime. She was hoping to receive that funding so she could give her firefighters a bonus that so many other essential workers received, and she does not think they could request that through FEMA. Altman confirmed because this is COVID related the FEMA portal is the portal she should request reimbursement. Cook should speak with Shane (Booker) on what qualifies and what does not. Clevenger noted she should contact Susan Nair at EMA and he will provide Cook with that contact information.

Heirbrandt asked if there are state ARPA dollars available for the townships? Sullivan replied townships are considered non-entitlement units under the ARPA guidelines. Guidance is that in theory the townships should go to the state for ARPA funds. Driskell reported the state has clearly stated that all the townships have to go to the county. Sullivan replied under ARPA guidelines it clearly states the townships should go through the state. Altman asked Sullivan to contact the state for clarification, they have the lion's share of the ARPA funds.

**Promise Road Drainage - Project #49**

Beaver noted we approved the Promise Road drainage project in December, we are still going to do that, right? Heirbrandt replied it was approved. Altman asked what part of the EM Hare drain? Beaver replied 181<sup>st</sup> Street and Promise Road. Altman stated we have not messed with that. Beaver asked if they tried to do some sort of assessment of the property owners? All he is asking is that we appropriated the money, and nothing has been spent and he knows it takes time, we are going to spend the money that we approved, correct? Heirbrandt knows once it was approved they started the engineering. They are trying to build another arm. Beaver confirmed it is their understanding that we are going to spend ARPA money that we approved to fix that drain? Heirbrandt replied correct. Beaver noted Kent came in and told us when it is done he was going to fix the water going over the road. Heirbrandt replied yes. Altman wants Beaver to know that on some of these we are asking for participation from the ratepayers to stretch out dollars, she does not know on this project if we have to ask for participation. Dillinger noted this is in that area that we discussed, specifically just that. With the expansion of that we talked about it during the last drainage board meeting. Beaver is saying we are going to spend the \$1.5 million to fix those drains which is what #49 was. Dillinger replied that is his understanding. Altman wants to look at it and make sure we are telling you accurate information. A lot of those she has been insistent we put some assessment on them. Beaver is not opposed to assessment, but we approved money to fix the drains and he is working under the assumption that is what we are going to do. He does not want the project stopped because of some problem with not having enough money or the assessment will not bring in enough money or whatever. Altman replied they will come back to this board if we have a problem like that just as we did when the bids came in higher on another drain with Beaver

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acknowledging that was correct and noted we gave them more money. Dillinger noted all the bids on drains are coming in higher. Beaver has no problem with that, he just wants to make sure we are moving forward. Dillinger stated as far as he knows we are. Heirbrandt stated he will investigate it more, he thought there was another arm on that because he asked for specific clarification. Heirbrandt noted the biggest problem is the safety issue with water over the road and he wants to make sure it is taken care of and that is when Kent came in said there is a separate arm that goes onto this drain. Beaver noted as we still have a few dollars left if we have to apply more to it to get it done he is fine with that. Heirbrandt will clarify it with Kent.

**Broadband Services**

Sullivan stated at the last meeting they discussed broadband services and the new bill is coming with lots of project money coming out of the bill. A part of ARPA is it can be used for broadband services and one of the permitted uses is hiring a firm to help maximize the funds we receive for broadband. They met with OCRA and one of the things they suggested was not using actual ARPA dollars on the actual broadband infrastructure, but it would be a good idea to start ramping up. Mike Thibideau explored the county's options for getting broadband funding for the northern part of the county. At this committee's direction Thibideau spoke with KSM that specializes in this. The cost is \$27,500 with Thibideau serving as the county's project manager. Heirbrandt moved to approve the agreement with KSM in the amount of \$27,500. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

As Commissioners Altman moved to approve the contract with KSM. Heirbrandt seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Thibideau noted September is the deadline to submit project plans so this is moving quickly.

**Mental Health**

Thibideau reported Steve Nation and Commissioner Heirbrandt, based on the county's community behavioral health needs assessment and associated action plan, built a number of outcomes based on that plan. They asked Thibideau to identify potential consultants that could work with the county on moving those projects forward, identifying parties, doing gap analysis with the most important thing is to coordinate the 90-day integration that is set to occur over the next couple of months and the successful long-term plan for the opioid settlement dispersal that will come through the county and potentially some of the cities. Thibideau has identified some consultants and based on initial conversations have forwarded those to Connor Sullivan. Sullivan has not had the opportunity to provide an in-depth review of the proposals. Thibideau noted the total for all of it would be \$43,000 for the two consultants. Keeping in mind the 90-day integration and the money that would come from that and the opioid

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settlement (Indianapolis is receiving a \$40 million settlement). Heirbrandt noted this is an incredible leverage to receive a lot of money. Thibideau stated having a plan for dispersing these funds correctly and to be prepared would be very good for our community. Heirbrandt thinks we should approve it upon legal review. Altman noted the Commissioners meet on Monday. Altman asked if everyone comfortable with approving this to be funded out of ARPA funds? Beaver noted we are hiring a whole lot of consultants. Altman noted if we can leverage dollars.

Clevenger asked if we could look into it a little more to see if this can be funded out of ARPA dollars. Dillinger stated we will discuss it Monday. Altman asked to poll the committee, we can act as Commissioners on Monday but how does Council feel? Beaver replied we are hiring a consultant to find out how we can disperse money from something besides ARPA money? Altman stated it is making application for the opioid settlement if she understands. Thibideau noted that could be one potential outcome but also more realistically there have been challenges that were identified by the countywide behavioral health work done last year the people would actually operate at more of a quarterback capacity to assign organizations within the community, coordinating with the health department. It is a pretty extensive list of the outcome that comes from these services. He would defer to Connor but his interpretation of the final rule, the holistic approach with the public health including specifically aligning with mental heal and substance abuse strategies are encouraged ARPA expense. Clevenger's concern is this is something that happened prior to COVID, the opioid settlement came before. Altman stated she presumes it was what he clarified what she thought it was and it does not sound like it. Sullivan noted we have not seen the opioid settlement yet. Altman stated assuming it is payable, which is what she is trying to figure out from counsel, if we have an issue with this. Nation stated because of the item with behavioral health if we don't have this type of program to bring the people together we will be paying money here and waste opportunities over here and over here. Nation wants to point it to the best way to provide the best service for the citizens and thinks this is the way. Beaver noted this is not coming out of county general so suit yourself. Maki agreed with Nation, this is an important issue and wants to hire the consultant to get this done. Altman moved to approve the contract out of ARPA funds provided that it is an appropriate expenditure. Heirbrandt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Heirbrandt moved to adjourn the ARPA Committee. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Present**

Christine Altman, Commissioner  
Steve Dillinger, Commissioner  
Mark Heirbrandt, Commissioner  
Brad Beaver, Councilor  
Steve Nation, Councilor  
Sue Maki, Councilor (virtually, via Teams)  
Robin Mills, Auditor  
Dan Stevens, Director of Administration  
Michael Howard, County Attorney  
Connor Sullivan, Assistant County Attorney  
Todd Clevenger, Auditor's Grant Administrator  
Jennifer Chavez, Auditor's Grant Administrator Clerk  
Lauren Powell, Auditor's Accounts Payable Clerk  
Kim Rauch, Administrative Assistant to Auditor  
Robyn Cook, Jackson Township Trustee  
Nicole Duncan, Jackson Township Trustee  
Debbie Driskell, Delaware Township Trustee  
Danielle Carey Tolan, Westfield Washington Township Trustee  
Nancy Ramsey, Family Promise of Hamilton County  
Mary Shaw, Noblesville Housing Authority  
Mike Thibideau, Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation  
Tammy Sander, Hamilton County Social Media Coordinator (virtually, via Teams)