



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee

Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Apr 7, 2022 at 9:00 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor, 112 E Second Street, Dixon, IL 61021

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Bob Olson.

II. Roll Call - Bob Olson, Chair, Jim Schielein, John Nicholson, Chris Norberg, Rick Humphrey, and Tim Bivins

All committee members were present in person.

III. Committee Members - John Simonton, Kevin Lalley, Charley Boonstra, Sara Leisner, Patty Rudolphi, Paul Rudolphi, Wendy Ryerson

Absent: John Simonton, Kevin Lalley, and Charley Boonstra. Sara Leisner, Patty Rudolphi, Paul Rudolphi, and Wendy Ryerson were all present in person.

Also present: Dave Bally, Tom Wilson, and Lirim Mimini (Board Members), Greg Saunders (Maintenance Supervisor), Dave Anderson (County Engineer and Highway/Solid Waste), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person.

IV. Approval of Minutes (March 10, 2022 meeting)

The March 10, 2022, American Rescue Plan Act Committee Meeting minutes were approved without modification.

V. Visitors

There were no visitors from the public.

VI. Monthly PowerPoint Presentation

Sara Leisner walked the committee through the monthly PowerPoint presentation.

VII. Old Business

There were no items for Old Business.

VIII. New Business

- A. Revised Estimate for approved ARPA Request-Sheriff's Driveway Expansion - Action Item

John Simonton (Sheriff) submitted a revised request for the LCSD Driveway Expansion because the work was not done last year due to weather issues. The original request was for \$17,200 and the updated request was \$17,775.

Motion to approve a total of \$17,775 for the LCSD Driveway Expansion and move to the Finance Committee. **Moved** by Chris Norberg. **Second** by John Nicholson.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Additional Community Service Application - Action Item

Sara Leisner explained that Meals on Wheels had signed their application in February and emailed it to the ARPA email. However, because of a technology problem, the email was not received. Because they submitted the application in good faith, Sara was requesting that the application be approved.

Motion to approve and fund the Meals on Wheels application and move to the Finance Committee. **Moved** by John Nicholson. **Second** by Tim Bivins. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Ukraine Discussion

Motion to table the Ukraine Discussion. **Moved** by Jim Schielein. **Second** by John Nicholson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. Review of Top Five (5) Priorities

1. Assistance to Small Businesses, Tourism and Travel/Hospitality.
2. Assistance to Households using local community services agencies
3. Job Training Programs
4. Technology improvements to County Board meeting rooms
5. Improvement to Broadband Infrastructure

E. Discussion of Proposed Small Business Program and Approval - Action Item

Sara Leisner explained that the ARPA staff had put together a plan for a Small Business Program and walked the committee through the details that were included in the PowerPoint presentation. The Proposed Small Business/Tourism/Travel/Hospitality Program were as follows:

- Allocation of \$1 million (after discussion in Other New Business item "F" on the agenda- the total was changed to \$500,000)
- Maximum request of \$20,000 per business (after discussion, these funds could be prorated based on number of applications)

- Maximum of \$20,000 per business over the life of ARPA funds
- Accept applications through August 31, 2022, via email/mail/fax or in-person and re-evaluate allocation to the category after application deadline. (After discussion it was recommended that the deadline be moved to June 30, 2022 with awards paid to the recipients 30 days after final County Board approval.)

Eligibility

- Business/Tourism/Travel/Hospitality must be located within Lee County
- Business employs up to 25 employees
- Business must demonstrate significant COVID 19 expenses/disruptions in business
- Entity must have existed in business as of March 16, 2020 and is still open to date
- Eligible for costs incurred as of March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2024. Project/use must be completed, and funds fully expended by December 31, 2026

Business Must Fall Within Highly Impacted Industries

- Tourism Industry
- Hotel/Motel Industry
- Child Care Industry
- Restaurant/Bar/Tavern
- Event/Performing Arts Venue
- Music/Movie Theatre/Venue
- Indoor Recreation
- Health and Fitness Center
- Retail

Application Details

- Business name, address, contact person, and tax ID#

- Narrative explaining the intended use of funds and describing the impact that COVID 19 has had on the business
- Project/Use start and end date and cost
- Other funding sources sought for project
- Did the business incur a loss even after receipt of any COVID 19 related financial assistance
- Was the business required to close due to the Governor's order regarding non-essential businesses and/or due to quarantine of staff. If so, please list dates (after discussion it was requested that the application ask if the applicant had sought funding from their local city)

Other Details

- Release of application on website on/about April 11, 2022
- Review of applications received monthly at ARPA meeting

Motion to approve \$500,000 for the Small Business Category, with a \$20,000 prorated per business award, an application deadline of June 30, 2022, and addition of questions added to the application. **Moved** by Rick Humphrey. **Second** by Tim Bivins. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Other New Business

Bob Olson explained that he felt the meetings lacked structure and would like to see, the committee as a whole, present a recommendation to the Finance Committee that spelled out a future plan for the \$5.5 million dollars that had not been allocated. The recommendation should include: 1) timelines for funds to be allocated, 2) funds clearly earmarked for certain entities/projects, 3) funds held for reserved spending.

During discussion, Tom Wilson explained that roughly \$3 million dollars would be necessary, just in the New Courts Building alone, to replace failing HVAC/boiler systems and two (2) failing elevators. Dave Anderson voiced concern during the meeting. He explained that "deferred maintenance is not the same thing as saving money", which is what the Highway Department has been forced to do for many years. Roofing, an air exchanger, and a culvert project were priorities on his list. Wendy Ryerson explained that many of the surrounding Counties are spending their all funds on deferred maintenance and capital repairs projects.

After much discussion the following timeline and allocations were recommended:

- Total Award - \$6,622,748
- Obligated Funds - \$1,036,284
- Funds Remaining - \$5,586,464
- **2022**
 - \$1.5 million set aside for all County Capital Projects
 - \$500 thousand earmarked for Small Businesses
 - \$500 thousand earmarked for Business Development
 - \$1 million held for reserved spending
- **2023**
 - \$1 million - Reserved
- **2024**
 - \$1 million - Reserved

Motion to approve the calendar presented above as a preliminary outline for moving forward. **Moved** by Chris Norberg. **Second** by John Nicholson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

Motion to move the ARPA allocation of \$1.5 million dollars, set aside in 2022 for all County Capital Projects, to the Finance and Executive Committees for approval. **Moved** by Jim Schielein. **Second** by John Nicholson. **Motion** carried unanimously by voice vote.

IX. Next Meeting Date (May 5, 2022)

Sara Leisner explained that during the May 5, 2022, meeting all prior eligible unawarded requests would be brought to the meeting for consideration and the parties that submitted the requests would be contacted and given the opportunity to speak at the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. **Moved** by Tim Bivins. **Second** by Jim Schielein. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.