



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

March 1, 2022 3:00 PM

Commissioners

Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Kurt Doroh, District 2
Richard Godfrey, District 3
Mike Chappell, District 4
Randall Peat, District 5
Donald Hanson, District 6
Paul Schincariol, District 7

ARPA Committee Meeting

1. Call to Order

Committee members present: Commissioner Paul Schincariol (Chair), Commissioner Gail Patterson-Gladney, Commissioner Kurt Doroh, County Administrator Frank Hardester, Finance Director Ryan Post

Committee members absent: County Treasurer Trisha Nesbitt

Others in attendance: Dan Bishop, Managing Director of the Van Buren County Road Commission; Danielle Persky, Health Officer with the Van Buren Cass District Health Department; Maria Bowater of Red Arrow Ministries

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Commissioner Doroh; Supported by County Administrator Frank Hardester; Motion: Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. 2/1/2022 ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the 2/1/2022 ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Supported by Commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried.

5. Public Comment

Tim Remington, 09275 40th Street, Bloomingdale, MI, Bloomingdale, stated that he is the President of the School Board in Bloomingdale, on the Board of Directors at Bloomingdale Communications and owner of Remington Excavating in Bloomingdale, spoke to the committee regarding broadband. He stated that schools have had a lot of issues due to the lack of broadband, including having to send hot spots to children during the pandemic. Now that they are back in the classrooms, teachers cannot give assignments that require the internet. He has heard from many people that they cannot work remotely. He stated that Bloomingdale Communications is very excited about the growth of broadband, but it needs more funding. Even if it's another company other than Bloomingdale, there is a need for broadband in the county. Bloomingdale Communications is shovel ready.

6. Agenda Items

A. ARPA Update

Administrator Hardester presented the ARPA update including:

- ARPA proposals approved
- ARPA balance remaining
- Pending proposal amounts
- Proposals received

Discussions were held about other funding that is, or may become, available.

B. Proposal # 029 - Road Commission CR 388

Dan Bishop, Van Buren County Road Commission Managing Director, presented Proposal # 029 for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,200,146.86 to crush and replace County Road 388. This is the amount of the Road Commission's loss revenue due to the pandemic. Discussion ensued.

The Committee recommended that he check to see if there are other funds available, possibly from Pine Grove Township.

Motion to table the decision on this item and bring it back to this committee on April 5th pending review of possible additional funding and consulting the auditors by Administrator Hardester; Supported by Commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried.

C. Proposal # 030 Broadband - Keeler Township area - Sister Lakes Cable

Tom Wilson of Sister Lakes Cable is not in attendance to present his request.

Motion to table this item until April 5th when a representative from Sister Lakes is in attendance to present the request by Administrator Hardester; Supported by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

D. Proposal # 031 Van Buren Cass District Health Department

Danielle Persky of Van Buren / Cass District Health Department presented her request for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$350,000 for loss revenue. The funds would be used to replace and update dental equipment. They are requesting \$300,000 from Cass County ARPA funding as well, and \$10,000 is coming from a MDHHS Accreditation Readiness Mini-Grant for a project total of \$660,000. Discussion ensued.

Motion to approve the proposal and move it to the 3/22/2022 COW and the 4/12/2022 BOC for final approval with the Health Department providing supporting quotes by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

E. Proposal # 032 - Lawton / Porter Utility Expansion

Lisa Imus, Village of Lawton Manager, presented her request for ARPA funding in the amount of \$22,500 to extend sewer and/or water service outside the village into Porter Township. Discussion ensued.

Motion to approve the request and move it to the 3/8/2022 COW and the 3/22/2022 BOC for final approval by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Supported by Commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried.

F. Proposal #033 - Red Arrow Youth Center

Maria Bowater of Red Arrow Ministries presented her proposal for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$795,400 for the construction of the Red Arrow Youth Center, which will partner with Luc's Light Youth Music & Arts Foundation and the Paw Paw Village Players to provide a place for youth to explore creative expression in a safe and supportive environment. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Schincariol recused himself from voting on this item because he is on the board for Luc's Light.

Motion to table this item for review again at the next ARPA meeting on 4/5/2022 pending information and other possible funding options by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Administrator Hardester; Motion: Carried.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Doroh; Supported by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 5:35 PM