



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

October 12, 2021 10:00 AM

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 Gail Patterson-Gladney (interim chair), Commissioner Kurt Doroh, Commissioner Mike Chappell (standing in for Commissioner Schincariol), Treasurer Trisha Nesbitt, Administrator Frank Hardester

Committee Members Absent: Finance Director Ryan Post, Commissioner Paul Schincariol

Others Present: Commissioner Richard Godfrey, Bloomingdale Communications CEO Steve Schultz

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Chappell, Support by commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

A. 9/29/2021 ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the 9/29/2021 ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Doroh; Supported by Commissioner Chappell; Motion: Carried

5. Public Comment

Steve Schultz of Bloomingdale Communications stated that they will be submitting their proposal request soon. Mr. Schultz reported about the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Grant. He will work with Administrator Hardester regarding the areas in Van Buren County that have been awarded the grant funds.

6. Agenda Items

A. ARPA Update

- Administrator Hardester stated that he attended the ICMA conference last week and received information from that conference about ARPA funds and what some other counties are doing.
- The court is concerned about jury deliberation space. Administrator Hardester has advised them to develop short term and long term solutions and present them to this committee. Perhaps we could convert some of the vacant space in

Hartford as a multi-purpose meeting space that could be used by all departments when needed.

- All department heads have been sent an email about the premium pay for essential workers. We are compiling a list of the employees who qualify.
- Treasurer Nesbitt reported that the Land Bank would be submitting a proposal. They are hoping to get funding for much needed repairs to 5 West Main, Hartford, so it can be brought to code for mixed use, commercial and residential.
- Discussions were held regarding affordable housing. Treasurer Nesbitt reported that The Dwelling Place, from Grand Rapids, contacted the Land Bank stating that they are partnering with Habitat of Humanity and are looking into adding low-income townhomes in South Haven.
- Administrator Hardester reported that he anticipates having more to bring to the next meeting as the proposals start coming in. He plans to address CIP issues for the county as well.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Chappell;
Motion: Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 10:30 AM