



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

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

November 23, 2021 10:00 AM

ARPA Committee Meeting

1. Call to Order

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Paul Schincariol (Chair), Commissioner Gail Patterson-Gladney (remote from South Haven, MI), Commissioner Kurt Doroh, Administrator Frank Hardester, Finance Director Ryan Post, Treasurer Trisha Nesbitt (remote from Naples, FL)

Others in attendance: Under Sheriff Kevin Conklin, CEO of Bloomingdale Communications Steve Schwarts, Buildings & Grounds Director Jeff Hall, Dave Allen and Terry Rubenthaler of Midwest Energy & Communications

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Doroh; Supported by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. 11/9/2021 ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the 11/9/2021 ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Supported by Commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Agenda Items

A. ARPA Update

Administrator Hardester reported that we have not received a final final from the Department of Treasury yet. He presented the list of proposals received to date and the potential funds remaining if these items are approved. Discussions ensued.

B. Proposal # 009 - Sheriff 's Office Armored Vehicle

Under-Sheriff Kevin Conklin presented his proposal for the purchase of a Lenco Bear Cat armored vehicle for the amount of \$239,525.00.

- The vehicle would be used to safely transport ten to twelve fully equipped first responders into areas otherwise not accessible to normal first responder vehicles, as well as used monthly for SWAT training.

- The vehicle would retire the MRAP vehicle, which is very limited due to its weight and parts availability. The MRAP vehicle is on loan to the Sheriff's Office from the Federal Government.

Administrator Hardester asked about financial support from other state and local agencies that would also benefit from the vehicle. Under-Sheriff Conklin responded that local agencies don't have the funding and the state has their own vehicles. Administrator Hardester suggested consulting with the auditors and legal council about the use of ARPA funds for this project. Discussion ensued.

Motion to table this item until further funding/grants research and consulting are completed by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Administrator Hardester; Motion: Carried.

C. Proposal # 010 - Broadband - Bloomingdale Communications (Reconnect 1/2)

Steve Schults, CEO of Bloomingdale Communications, presented his bid in the amount of \$2,227,168.00, townships are also committing some of their own funds towards the project. Mr. Schults stated that they only need the commitment, the funds will not be taken until they are needed. If they find that they have over estimated, the funds will not be taken. Discussion ensued.

Administrator Hardester reported that several different sources have said that there are other funding sources becoming available specifically for things like broadband.

Motion to table this topic to a future date until research about other funding options has been completed by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Administrator Hardester; Motion Carried.

D. Proposal # 011 - HVAC - 911 Operations Center

Administrator Hardester presented the HVAC proposal for the 911 Operations Center, located in the basement of the Sheriff's Office. The amount of the proposal is \$82,000.00, which includes a 5% contingency. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this proposal to the 12/14/21 COW for review by the full board by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

E. Proposal # 012 - HVAC - Historic Courthouse

Administrator Hardester presented the proposal for HVAC in the Historic Courthouse for the amount of \$142,000, which includes a 5% contingency. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this proposal to the 12/14/21 COW for review by the full board by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

F. Proposal # 013 - HVAC - Administration Building

Administrator Hardester presented the proposal for HVAC in the Administration Building for \$122,000, which includes a 5% contingency. He stated that this project would be contingent on making renovations to the front of the building. Discussion ensued.

Motion to table this item to a future date pending decision on renovations to the front of the building by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

G. Proposal # 014 - Windows - Administration Building

Administrator Hardester presented the proposal to replace the windows in the Administration building for the amount of \$114,000. It was questioned if including windows in the renovation costs could save some money.

Motion to table this item until decisions are made about the renovations to this building by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

H. Proposal # 015 - Windows - Annex Building

Administrator Hardester presented the proposal for Windows in the Annex Building for the amount of \$193,713. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this proposal to the 12/14/21 COW for review by the full board by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried. Commissioner Schincariol voted no.

I. Proposal # 016 - Windows - Historic Courthouse

Administrator Hardester presented the proposal for Windows at the Historic Courthouse for the amount of \$354,071. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this proposal to the 12/14/21 COW for review by the full board by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Support by Commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried.

J. Proposal # 017 - Broadband - Bloomingdale Communications (build areas in Almena Twnshp)

Steve Schults from Bloomingdale Communications presented his proposal for broadband installation in the Fieldstone, Hidden Ponds, and Sandy Ridge Circle areas in Almena Township for the amount of \$1,308,223. Discussion ensued.

Motion to table this topic to a future date until research about other funding options has been completed by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion Carried.

K. Proposal #018 - Broadband - Midwest Energy & Communications - Hamilton Twp Project

Dave Allen of Midwest Communication presented his proposal for \$210,000 for broadband expansion in Hamilton Township. Terry Rubenthaler of Midwest Communication explained the scope of the project, which includes 7.3 miles of new fiber, covering 52 homes. The total cost is proposed to be 50% funded by the township and 50% by the county. Each customer would pay a \$100 installation fee to connect to their home once the fiber is installed.

Motion to table this topic to a future date until research about other funding options has been completed by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Support by Commissioner Doroh; Motion Carried.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned: 12:25 PM

