



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

February 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, County Treasurer Trisha Nesbitt, Finance Director Ryan Post

Others in attendance: Commissioner Don Hanson, Commissioner Richard Godfrey, CEO of Bloomingdale Communications Steve Schults, Chief Technology Officer of Midwest Energy & Communications Terry Rubenthaler, Van Buren Trial Court Administrator Rachel Lindley, Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo Jennifer Dobbins, Van Buren County Senior Services Diane Rigozzi, Director of Public Works for City of South Haven William Hunter,

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes

A. 1/11/2022 ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the 1/11/2022 ARPA Committee Meeting minutes by Commissioner Doroh; Supported by Treasurer Nesbitt; Motion: Carried.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Agenda Items

A. ARPA Update

Administrator Hardester presented the ARPA updates including the amount used to date and pending items. He stated that there was a previous proposal to use Merit to do a broadband survey. However, new research has shown that a company called DCS can do mapping and provide parcel level data. Administrator Hardester is recommending that DCS Technology come to present to the board and suggests the next Administrative Affairs Committee. Discussion ensued.

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

Steve Schultz of Bloomingdale Communications presented his update from the last ARPA Committee meeting.

- Reconnect round 2 has been fully funded and is contracted. It is on budget and moving forward.
- Reconnect round 1 has come up under budget, we will consider resubmitting it with the reduced amount.
- Looking for a legal opinion on the local side about the funding that can be used. The uniform guidance funds cannot be used as a match.

Discussion ensued. Steve Schultz is withdrawing his Round 1 request and will resubmit his proposal with a reduced amount.

Motion to remove the original proposal from the proposal list by Administrator Hardester; Supported by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

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

Steve Schults of Bloomingdale Communications presented his request for ARPA funding in the amount of \$1,308,223.00 to bring broadband to the Almena Township neighborhoods of Fieldstone, Hidden Ponds and Sandy Ridge Circle. The original request has been changed due to the discovery that some of the original areas of Hidden Ponds do have an internet service. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this to 2/8/2022 COW for full consideration by County Administrator Hardester; Supported by Treasurer Nesbitt; Motion: Carried.

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

Terry Rubenthaler of Midwest Energy & Communications presented his proposal to use ARPA funding in the amount of \$210,000 to provide broadband to 52 homes in the Hamilton Township area. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move the request to the 2/8/2022 COW for further consideration by Administrator Hardester; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

E. Proposal # 023 - VBC Court and Sheriff's Office File Digitization

Trial Court Administrator Rachel Lindley presented her request to use ARPA funds in the amount of \$680,592.00 to collaboratively digitize files for the courts and the Sheriff's office. Clearing these files will allow the space for the MDOT probation and parole office to be in one space, per their request, and allow for jury space in the courthouse. After previous meeting discussions, using a vendor would be the best option for this project. The approximate time to complete digitization is 18 to 20 months. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this item to the 2/8/2022 COW for further consideration by Treasurer Nesbitt; Support by Commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried.

F. Proposal # 024 - Caring Network Maternal Infant Health Program

Jennifer Dobbins presented her request for \$50,000 of ARPA funds to expand the Caring Network Maternal Infant Health Program through Van Buren County. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this item to the 2/22/2022 COW for further consideration by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Support by Treasurer Nesbitt; Motion: Carried.

G. Proposal # 025 - Senior Services of VBC - Network Installation

Diane Rigozzi presented her request for ARPA funding to have broadband installed in the new building they obtained for Senior Services for the amount of \$45,168.00. They are doing fund raising for the remodeling of the building and lack the funds to obtain broadband. Discussion ensued.

- The Committee requested that she obtain more than one quote.
- Not all services are available for all seniors in Van Buren County, if their board can expand to all seniors in the county.

Motion to table this item to allow Ms. Rigozzi time to discuss options with her committee and obtain more cost quotes by Commissioner Doroh; Support by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

H. Proposal # 026 - Lead Service Replacement - SHAWSA

William Hunter presented his updated request for ARPA funding in the amount of \$480,468.75 to replace 153 lead services within the South Haven service area. Since his last request, he has reached out to other communities and they have received some funding from those communities, making it possible to reduce his original request amount.

Motion to move this item to the 2/22/22 COW for further consideration by Administrator Hardester; Support by Patterson-Gladney; Motion: Carried.

I. Proposal # 027 - Broadband Services for Keeler Township

Terry Rubenthaler of Midwest Energy & Communications presented his request for ARPA funding in the amount of \$67,500 towards the installation of broadband services in parts of Keeler Township. This amount would cover 50% of the funding needed to connect 31 unserved residential customers in 2 areas. Discussion ensued.

Motion to move this item to the 2/8/2022 COW for further consideration by Administrator Hardester; Supported by Commissioner Doroh; Motion: Carried.

7. Public Comment

Barb Chartier Raudonis, resident of 30 Apache Court, South Haven, MI asked, what stipulations come with the ARPA funding as far as who is granted the money? She also asked if there are stipulations for the contractors who do the approved work, such as COVID vaccination rules.

- Administrator Hardester explained that public comment is not designated for questions and answers, but if Ms. Raudonis would like to contact him, outside of this meeting, he would be happy to answer all of her questions.

8. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned: 3:35 PM