

MINUTES
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
And
AMERICAN RESCUE ACT PLANNING COMMITTEE

AUGUST 12, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.
Conference Room 1A
Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center
One Hamilton County Square
Noblesville, Indiana

Commissioner Vice President Christine Altman called the Commissioners meeting to order declaring a quorum present of Commissioner Christine Altman and Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt. Commissioner Steven C. Dillinger was absent.

American Rescue Act Planning Committee members present were County Councilor Brad Beaver and County Councilor Sue Maki.

MINUTES

Heirbrandt moved to approve minutes of June 23, 2022 and July 25, 2022. Maki seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ARPA FUNDING REQUESTS

Project Funding Requests

Mr. Connor Sullivan reported there are allocations of \$24 million for Bakers Corner and \$2.5 million for affordable housing deducted from \$31,827,337 leaves \$5,327,337 left for allocation. Unused funds that were designated for ARPA projects is \$2,754,789.89 which will be returned to the ARPA fund. Altman thinks we need to examine the money coming back to make sure it is voluntary return. Sullivan replied if they are returned voluntarily there will be just over \$8 million of ARPA funds to spend. Altman confirmed unless we pull back it is the \$5.3 million, Sullivan confirmed that is correct. Altman asked where the list of the returns are for the \$2,754,789.89. Sullivan noted per ARPA rules funds not used for a specific project must be returned to the fund the dollars originally came from for reappropriation.

- 276th Dunbar – US 31 \$1,370,454.89
From 8950.0000.8135.4300 to 8950.0000.2021.3001
Heirbrandt noted this project was to be funded with TIF dollars as well as ARPA funds. INDOT is now providing the funding for this project. Maki moved to approve. Heirbrandt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Elwood Wilson E.M. Hare Drain \$1,375,900.00
From 8950.0000.8149.4200 to 8950.0000.0000.1346
Mr. Kenton Ward reported they had \$1.5 million appropriated for this project. When they held the hearing the Hamilton County Drainage Board decided to redirect those funds and save \$200,000 out of what was already appropriated for the E.M. Hare drain and reallocate the \$1.3

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million over to the Craig Holleran which is the drainage shed of the E.M. Hare immediately north which serves Fishers Oakwood. Beaver confirmed that is 181st Street and Promise Road? Ward replied yes. Beaver stated all those property owners received as assessment from the drainage board. His philosophical problem is we appropriated money to do the project, there was no discussion of assessing the people on the project when we appropriated the money. Altman replied right and the reason the drainage board did what we did is the majority of that property is either commercial or will be converted to commercial. Typically, what the drainage board does is we wait for reconstruction and the developer pays. Beaver understands that but at the time the money was appropriated from this committee and went to the council there was x amount of money to do this drainage project. There was no discussion of assessments of people who lived along that drain. Altman replied correct but when the drainage board saw the watershed and looked at it we determined that was not the best use of this money. Beaver replied we appropriated money to fix the drain. Altman stated understood, the money is coming back, and it can be reappropriated. Beaver stated do whatever you want, he does not think that is right. Here is the project, here is the money, do the project, oh we have decided we would assess the people. That money was appropriated to fix that drain. Altman understands his concern but to be consistent with our priorities on drainage board and we deferred the lions share of that assessment. Beaver stated in the future once this group makes a decision it goes to the county council and they appropriate the money for a project. We still have to be concerned that somebody will make a decision down the road to redirect that money. Altman replied that is the way it is on any budgeting. Beaver replied this is ARPA money, he knows how county general works. Altman stated we cannot transfer the money to another project, that is the commitment of the ARPA funds. This committee makes a determination, council appropriates it, and then it is still up to the other bodies to make a good investment with all the facts known, that is how she views it. After drainage board looked at that we asked why we would be paying and subsidizing a bunch of commercial development, that is not fair. Beaver stated this is gifts from Joe Biden, which is what we are spending. Altman stated we determined to be consistent with our drainage. Beaver stated as a Councilor he will keep that in mind every time we are asked to make an appropriation for ARPA money, that's not the end and that may not be the project that gets funded. Maki and Altman replied but it will come back to this committee. Heirbrandt stated these drainage projects would never get done if we did not have this money to put in there. He does not know if it is fair to all the other people in the drainage sheds throughout the whole county because they have to pay huge assessments. Maki agreed with Heirbrandt. Heirbrandt stated it is a lot of money and he understands to the people who live in that watershed, it is a lot of money to

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them but they are going to get significant benefit from it. If they sell their property they will make a ton of money. Altman adding because it gets done and we figured out a way to do it without soaking down all of these ARPA funds. Heirbrandt noted Musselman was one of them that we talked to, and he knows he has talked with Beaver. He has prime land that will probably be developed. Beaver replied they understand his position with Heirbrandt and Altman acknowledging they do. He does not want to beat a dead horse, we appropriated for a project, you made a decision downstream of that decision, now the money is coming back. Let's not beat a dead horse.

Altman stated this will go back into what fund? Sullivan replied it goes back into the ARPA general fund. Altman stated so to the extent we want to use it on another drainage project it has to come through this committee and then to the project. Maki so moved. Heirbrandt seconded. Altman, Heirbrandt, Maki approved. Beaver opposed. Motion carried.

Beaver confirmed with Ward that he knows the timeframes on the ARPA money, what is your comfort level that you will either have them under contract or have something moving by the time our deadlines hit us? Ward replied he feels confident that they will have most of it spent and if not spent, allocated. Beaver replied ok, that is all he is concerned about. We are dumping millions of dollars your way for these projects, is there enough horsepower in the field to engage this amount of money? Ward replied we have 15 engineering contracts right now.

Surveyor Project Update

Ward presented an updated list of projects to the committee.

Ward also reported the water study is going great. They have eight (8) private wells installed with monitors with another 11 installations as we speak. They have 14 utilities that they are putting monitors on, last month, this month, and next month. They have another 24 volunteers that responded to the newspaper article. He was hoping Farm Bureau would provide more volunteers than what they did, but that article brought out the volunteers. It is a great project, and he appreciates the support. Ward reported they have found one well in the Vestal Ditch that is losing water at about one million gallons per day which is going back into the aquifers. Heirbrandt noted we are one of the only counties in the entire country that is doing something like this. It is going to change the landscape when we are finished. Ward reported he has received about a dozen calls from other counties, not only from Indiana but other states. Heirbrandt noted NACO (National Association of Counties) is very interested in this project.

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Heirbrandt asked Beaver if he has any information about the project with the water coming over the road? Beaver is confident and Ward has assured him that when the project is completed water will no longer go over the road.

- Buildings & Grounds Drainage – Parking Garage \$8,435.00
From 8950.0000.8114.4002 to 8950.0000.0000.1346
Heirbrandt so moved. Maki seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT REQUESTS

Sullivan reported now there is \$8,082,126.89 available for allocation.

Treasurer's Office Reconfiguration

Request - \$63,571.10

This request has been reviewed by Steve Wood and he has given his approval. This is to mitigate the transmission of COVID to allow adequate separation of staff allowing the staff to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and providing adequate barriers. Altman stated using this kind of money for these kind of projects bothers her. Beaver so moved. Heirbrandt seconded. Altman reiterated these are county general issues. Beaver, Heirbrandt and Maki approved. Altman opposed. Motion carried.

Information Systems Services Department (ISSD)

Request - \$144,000.00

Mr. Chris Mertens reported with the reconfiguration of the historic courthouse offices it means they need to redo the cable runs in that building. Mr. Mike Carter reported part of the problem is right now the cabling in the building all runs underneath the floor and the problem is they are in metal chases and the cubicles being changed it is creating problems. The floor is concrete with steel chases. We have to leave an access hole in each of these holes, so the carpeting has to be specialized to allow access. Abandoning all of the chases will give us the ability to move the cubicles wherever we need to move them. We will have to install data poles to go up and over. We never know what we are going to get into when working in the historic courthouse. Altman noted when capital projects come to us we need to make sure ISSD is involved in the discussion, they cannot be an afterthought they need to be part of the planning. Heirbrandt moved to approve. Beaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Committee Meeting – September 16, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 1A and Teams.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

KSM Broadband Update

Sullivan reported KSM presented a summary of the broadband study this week but were unable to attend today's meeting. This item will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Mike Thibideau reported they are through the data collection and conversation phase and moving into the application and delivery phase. In conversation with providers the regulation along with the infrastructure act is such a pain that frankly if we can find a way to coordinate the dig schedules with the drainage projects they are financing with providers being able to lay the broadband infrastructure in the same way they would almost rather do that with no county investment. Sullivan asked if road projects are included? Thibideau replied any horizontal investment if the providers can come along and lay the cable. If we can dig one hole that saves them so much money they would rather deal with that then deal with the federal grant money. Altman confirmed to facilitate that we need to coordinate highway and drainage. Thibideau replied KSM, he and Sullivan are already speaking with engineering and moving down that path. We are farther ahead than anyone in the state.

Mental Health Project 2nd Quarter Report

Heirbrandt asked that the Mental Health Report be presented at the next meeting.

KWK Grant Funding

Beaver asked what is the update on the funding we gave to Riverview to look for grant funding for the hospital? Altman reported Ms. Wagner of KWK will be providing an update at the next commissioners meeting.

Hamilton County Fairgrounds

Heirbrandt thinks there will be a big discussion of the fairgrounds at the joint session (August 23, 2022). We cannot go into it today until we have the discussion at the joint meeting with Beaver agreeing. Altman asked if Heirbrandt has any interest in bringing up the Banning contract before we have the overall fairgrounds discussion? Sullivan confirmed Altman is discussing the funds for the fairgrounds survey which was tabled at the council meeting along with the \$650,000 that was previously allocated for fairgrounds drainage which was switched to design; the council tabled it. Beaver added all that is on hold until a decision is made. Altman confirmed even the Banning survey for drainage, it was \$50,000? Mr. Tim Schwalm from Musset Nicholas & Associates stated it was for topographic survey needed for the design. Beaver stated we already appropriated money for drainage and now you want to transfer it

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and you want more money for drainage. Altman stated the problem is this is drainage but the way it was appropriated it was a capital project, she questioned that at the commissioners meeting, why it was being held up because it is for drainage. The way it was classified by the auditor's office it was in capital, to move to professional services it takes a transfer from council. The question is, even if we decide to move the fairgrounds, which Heirbrandt stated he is not in favor of. Altman continued; the topo is going to be valuable to whoever purchases that property. Beaver stated his advice was to not make a decision until you have the joint meeting. Altman was suggesting we could appropriate it at this meeting and move forward with that contract into the appropriate class if we want to move forward with the topo. Maki is in favor of doing that with Heirbrandt agreeing. Maki stated that is information we are going to need regardless. Altman stated it is not money down the hole because it is a topo and whoever, if they transfer, will need that information. Maki asked how much is this? Altman and Heirbrandt both replied about \$50,000. Heirbrandt so moved. Maki seconded. Altman, Heirbrandt, and Maki approved. Beaver opposed. Motion carried.

Heirbrandt stated he is personally against relocating the fairgrounds. He has already been down this path, and he knows Steve Dillinger has been down this path.

Altman asked if there is a motion to accept the Banning contract for the survey work so we can get that going? Beaver stated that will still require appropriation. Altman stated we have a commissioner quorum. Heirbrandt so moved. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Altman asked Sullivan to get the contract back for signature and we will move forward. Beaver asked if it still needs to come for appropriation? Altman replied no, this is from appropriated money which is what she presumed. We are putting it for professional services. Beaver does not think that is right. Sullivan stated the council tabled all 4H related requests. Mr. Dan Stevens stated he does not think this group can approve reallocating the money. Altman stated it is not reallocating, it is an appropriation out of unused ARPA funds on the first draw that was appropriated. That is how she is viewing it. Stevens replied which is what they tabled at the council meeting. Beaver recommended they listen to Stevens, everything has to go to appropriation with Sullivan agreeing, since they tabled it we might have to do that. Stevens thinks if the Auditor was here she would tell you that.

Beaver stated he was here when we consolidated the pieces of land for the fairgrounds with Altman confirming that is when all the land donations came in and all that stuff, it was 4H ground. Beaver stated we had to consolidate several pieces of property into the county name.

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Joint Meeting

Stevens asked if the Commissioners want the joint meeting in this conference room? Altman replied no, jury assembly if it is available. Ms. Rauch stated there is no equipment in jury assembly to hold a Teams meeting and this is scheduled for a Teams meeting. Sullivan replied they have not advertised for it yet; can we just not do a Teams meeting? Stevens replied that is up to the Council, Ken (Alexander) said he would like it to be advertised as a Teams meeting because he was not sure all the councilors could attend in person. Heirbrandt replied if that is the case then let's have it in this room. Beaver stated nothing against the people who come to our meeting, but it gets full in this room and he assumes we will have more visitors and spectators for this meeting. Altman noted it is a Teams meeting, they can sit in the lobby or Commissioners Courtroom and view the meeting. Altman stated if we need to take testimony or people present otherwise we need to broadcast the Teams meeting in the main room with the joint meeting in the conference room. They will know what is going on and they can send in their emissaries.

Women's' Shelter

Sullivan requested the Commissioners authority to send out an RFI (Request for Information) as part of the BOT process for the women's shelter project. This is a step that is not always taken but it does help the private side to gather ideas. Altman reported she and Rebecca will be having a joint call with the shelter that was built in Montana to see if it is worth visiting. Sullivan added if the Commissioners agree he and Tom John from Ice Miller will take the lead and get the RFI sent out. Heirbrandt so moved. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Heirbrandt moved to adjourn the Commissioner meeting. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Maki moved to adjourn the ARPA meeting. Meeting closed.

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Present

Christine Altman, Commissioner
Mark Heirbrandt, Commissioner
Brad Beaver, Councilor
Sue Maki, Councilor
Connor Sullivan, Assistant County Attorney
Dan Stevens, Director of Administration
Kim Rauch, Administrative Assistant to the Auditor
Jennifer Chavez, Deputy Grant Administrator
Lauren Powell, Auditor's Accounts Payable Clerk
Mike Thibideau, Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation
Andrea Davis, HAND, Inc.
Chris Mertens, ISSD Director
Mike Carter, ISSD
Kenton Ward, Surveyor
Kathy Williams, County Clerk
Susan Peterson, Purdue Extension
Tim Schwalm, Mussett Nicholas & Associates
Aimee Jacobson, Noblesville Housing Authority

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APPROVED
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Christine Altman
Steven C. Dillinger
Mark Heirbrandt

ATTEST

Robin M. Mills, Auditor

Date Approved: 10/10/2022