

April 26, 2022
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a Special ARPA work session at the Annex Conference Room with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Sellers, and Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The following stakeholders were in attendance:

Cris Corey, Dave Johnston, Lisa Gleason, Denise Gilliland, Lorna Moore, Clint Nelson, Penny Stoss, Carter File, Julia Westfahl, Marc Howell, Erynne Farney, Bill Lampe, Kari Mailloux, and Aubrey Abbott Patterson.

Administrator Randy Partington explained the process and categories that ARPA funds could be used for. He explained the priority buckets and the commission setting a deadline by May 20th, 2022, for a total amount requested, putting the requests in a spreadsheet. There were three buckets discussed: childcare, housing, and economic development, and discuss possible fund amounts for those buckets. He asked about administrating ARPA funds completely in-house, or a 3rd party assist with oversight of the funds. The recommendation was for staff to handle in-house but some of the larger programs handle their own grant work with Reno County still overseeing.

Mr. Friesen suggested that buckets be administered under a formal recommendation from Mr. Partington. He was in favor of childcare and determining how it would be administered and an allocation amount with a housing plan next and then a miscellaneous bucket that would have a deadline. They would then assemble a list and decide later on those requests.

Mr. Sellers spoke about starting to add allocations to buckets. He thought moving slower is better and supports the May 20th deadline for requests. He was not ready to allocate an amount to childcare, he felt it was too early to assign an amount.

Mr. Hirst spoke about allocations concerning infrastructure details of extra expenses encumbered with expansion. He commented on utilities that Mr. Partington was working on. ARPA was to be used for infrastructure and he did not want to put numbers on allocations at this time. He spoke about

administration of funds and how the county should supervise out of the 5 percent admin fees.

Mr. Friesen thought ARPA funds should not be used for rate-based utilities. He asked for a consensus to allocate four million to childcare to move the process along.

Mr. Partington suggested that United Way with an agreement with Reno County could administer the ARPA funds that would be allocated to childcare with Reno County overseeing expenses.

Mr. Friesen asked for a consensus on a formal motion to be drafted by Mr. Partington for the next agenda meeting. County Counselor Mr. Hoffman gave explanation for motions and consensus during work sessions. For future meetings it will be announced if motions would be expected during the session.

There was a large discussion on housing and NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Plan) that deals with tax abatement. There was a more complete discussion on the Interfaith Housing/SCKEDD cooperation understanding. Consensus was for bucket number #2 to have a more complete list and for staff to develop a draft and return to the Board.

Mr. Friesen said bucket #3 would be miscellaneous with what is left over after the fire district truck equipment and economic development. Out of the \$12 million, the Board allocated a possible \$1.2 economic development, \$440,000 fire truck purchase, \$4.0 million toward childcare, and \$4.0 million toward housing.

The Board discussed how to administer funds and suggested getting with the City of Hutchinson, so the administration of funds was not duplicated. The Board also raised other options on requests for the third bucket funds. Mr. Hirst said Arlington EMS building, equipment and gear for rural fire districts, Health Department and utilities, Reno County lost revenue and utilities. Mr. Sellers thought that nursing scholarships had merit. Mr. Friesen liked workforce development and nursing scholarships. Mr. File explained the funds were not for a scholarship but an infrastructure and teachers for more students.

Mr. Partington clarified that the Board discussed \$4.5 million for the first two buckets and the balance of funds with scoring or rating on a spreadsheet for other request options that come in by May 20th, 2022. The Board had decided on

childcare funds and housing then figure out balance after the eight to nine million.

Bill Lampe with SCKEDD spoke about funds and a wealth of knowledge and qualified inspections. Clint Nelson with Interfaith Housing said the cooperation between the agencies would partner together on the middle-income housing plan. The Board had a large discussion on housing.

Hutchinson Community Foundation Program Officer Kari Mailloux expressed appreciation for listening to the community and supporting collaboration.

EMS Chief David Johnston spoke about western Reno County and the Arlington EMS building needing to be entirely replaced or remodeled. He commented on the addition of mobile dispatching equipment to the ambulances.

At 12:50 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date