

SPECIAL CALLED
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING

Jefferson County Public Safety Center, 620 Green Road, Madison, IN 47250

DATE 11-09-2021

Councilwoman Pam Crozier called the meeting to order. Those also in attendance were: Commissioner David Bramer, Commissioner Robert Little, Councilman Chris Shelton, Councilman Ray Denning, Councilwoman Heather Foy, Councilwoman Judy Smith, Councilman Gary Copeland, Councilman Ray Black and Auditor Heather Huff.

The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the intended use of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds. The commissioners approved a contract with Barnes and Thornburg to advise the County on the legal spending of the ARP funds and recommended the county hire an account manager to determine the County's revenue loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Bramer has reached out to Andrew Lanam. Barnes & Thornburg are currently working to develop a draft plan for the county's \$6.2 million dollar ARP monies. The following intended uses and suggested amounts were discussed:

Negative Economic Impact- Commissioner Bramer said this use would be to cover loss of funds for nonprofits, county fire department, etc. that were unable to hold events and fundraisers, which resulted in revenue loss to those organizations. Commissioners suggested \$50,000 for County festivals and \$100,000 for each County Fire Department (\$1,450,000).

Premium Pay- Councilwoman Pam Crozier said she would like to see employees that were exposed to COVID-19 and were considered the most at-risk. Auditor Heather Huff spoke about a phone conference that she had with Barnes & Thornburg which discussed "essential to conduct county business" versus non-essential employees. Examples were given on the various duties that took place for courthouse employees to keep the county business operating. Barnes & Thornburg also suggested the County look into a tiered premium pay system for employees, where not all employees would receive the same amount. Premium pay will be discussed at a later date. Commissioners suggested \$150,000 to be allocated for the Highway Department, Sheriff Deputies, Jail Officers and 911 Dispatchers.

Water, Sewer and Broadband- Commissioner Bramer explained the intended use for the water infrastructure, which would be used for capital projects for County water companies and Stormwater Management. Commissioners suggested a \$1,100,000 allocation. Mayor Bob Courtney was in attendance to answer any questions and discuss the City of Madison's request for \$2.5 million dollars for the City of Madison water infrastructure project. The Mayor explained that Canaan, Dupont and Rykers Ridge water companies receive their water at a wholesale cost from the City, which is then marked up for the various County consumers. Commissioner Bramer stated he would like to review the City of Madison water rate study before committing a dollar amount towards the project. Mayor Courtney would like to see the County and City share the responsibility of updating the water infrastructure, considering that approximately 75% of the City of Madison water is used by County residents. Councilman Gary Copeland would like a decision on the water made quickly to save the taxpayers money. The City of Madison has received \$2.6 million dollars in ARP money, but has allocated \$2 million to be used towards Stormwater management and flood risk management. Mayor Courtney provided an example, stating that if the County only chose to fund \$2 million, it would only reduce the overall increase by 10%. City Councilwoman Lucy Datillo, City Councilman Curtis Chatham and City Councilwoman Katie Rampy was also in attendance in support of the County providing \$2.5 million dollars of ARP money to the drinking water project. Datillo said she would like the City and County to work together, plan for the future and keep costs low for the taxpayers. Commissioner Bramer revisited the request for the rate study. The water allocation will be discussed at a later meeting.

Revenue Replacement- Commissioner Bramer explained that the Highway Department has seen a decrease in funding from the gas tax. Commissioners suggested a \$1,200,000 allocation to be

used for Highway Department equipment, EMA, 911, Sheriff's Department and grant matching funds for other development projects.

Administration- Commissioners suggested a \$20,000 allocation for administrative fees for Barnes & Thornburg and any other administrative fees that are incurred.

Madison Riverfront Development Committee- JD Webster gave a presentation on a super overlook on the river front. The committee requested \$250,000 match from the County. Webster anticipates a boost in tourism with the overlook, which will be able to hold concerts, festivals, weddings and events. The commissioners will take the request under advisement.

Sheriff's Department- Chief Deputy, Josh Taylor submitted a request to the commissioners for various equipment for the Sheriff's Department and Jail. The Commissioners will take the request under advisement and consult with Barnes & Thornburg.

The ARP money must be obligated by 2024 and completely spent by 2026. The commissioners and council will hold joint sessions to further discuss the allocations and funding requests. Councilman Ray Denning made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Gary Copeland seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioners

Council

ATTEST: _____