

OCEANA COUNTY FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

** ADMINISTRATOR'S MEETING NOTES **

Date: May 19, 2021

Present: Mr. Craig Hardy, Ms. Mary Lou Phillips, Dr. Lynne Cavazos, Mr. James Kelly, and Dr. Robert J. Sobie

Absent: Ms. Tammy Carey

Mr. Hardy called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Following introductions between the members, Dr. Sobie reviewed the "kickoff report" that he previously distributed to members of the newly formed ad hoc advisory committee, including a brief discussion about some of the very first project funding ideas that he received.

Dr. Sobie explained the process he completed to formally request the first allocation of funding from treasury.

There was a general discussion about whether or not the county board has a strategic plan that could offer the committee some guidance about funding priorities. Dr. Sobie mentioned that there are certain goals identified in the county's master plan, such as economic development, but that a strategic plan based on the goals of the county board does not currently exist.

Mr. Kelly mentioned a MLive article that references a plan prepared by the City of Muskegon that lists the city's priorities for using their federal money. He noted that there was a strong emphasis on parks.

Mr. Kelly asked if the committee's initial focus of the new committee should be on the revenue loss category to shore up the county's financial situation given the loss of revenue. Following discussion, Dr. Sobie was asked to make an initial assessment of revenue loss for areas like charges for services that are very broad (i.e., record copying, inmate housing, dog licenses, etc.) and other areas like a reduction in grant funding from federal and state sources..

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Dr. Cavazos started a discussion about how organizations should submit project ideas for funding. Following discussion, a form or online method of some kind will be developed and made available but exactly how it will look or work is pending.

Members also talked about a future press release or article.

Ms. Phillips offered to contact local officials to start a dialogue about funding ideas and priorities at the local level and whether some collaboration is possible between local units and the county.

Dr. Sobie stated that he would prepare a summary of today's meeting and send it to Ms. Carey to keep her updated.

The meeting ended at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting will be June 15 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room.

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