

OCEANA COUNTY FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

** ADMINISTRATOR'S MEETING NOTES **

Date: September 13, 2021

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

Absent: Mr. Craig Hardy

Dr. Sobie called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and provided an update on each of the ARPA funding recommendations that were submitted to the county board for consideration on August 26. All of the recommendations were approved by the county board:

- Appropriation to District Health Department #10 for fiscal years 2021 (4th qtr), 2022, 2023, and 2024;
- Appropriation to West Michigan Community Mental Health for fiscal years 2021 (4th qtr), 2022, 2023, and 2024;
- Appropriation to Oceana County Economic Alliance for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024;
- Establishing and funding a full time, temporary, Economic Development Coordinator position in the county for fiscal years 2021 (4th qtr), 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Two additional recommendations were approved by the county board using the general fund as the funding source. They are:

- Website redesign project for fiscal year 2021 (the project will likely carryover into fiscal year 2022);
- Enhanced technology for the board of commissioners' public meeting room for fiscal year 2021 (the project will likely carryover into fiscal year 2022).

Ms. Carey asked if there was any way for Ferry Township to still submit a request to the Michigan Department of Treasury for its share of the ARPA funds. Ms. Phillips said that she would look into it and possibly contact the township again.

The advisory committee is not a public body and is not subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976 as amended. Committee members may, at their discretion, direct the county administrator to publish notices of the meeting and to invite speakers in to make presentations about funding proposals.

Dr. Sobie presented a request from Sheriff Mast regarding funding for inmate medical services. Sheriff Mast considers the coordination of services in the jail to be a serious vulnerability that may expose the county to liability when non-medical staff (i.e., corrections officers) are making decisions regarding medications and treatment protocols. Dr. Sobie stated that he will discuss the Sheriff's concerns with the Board of Commissioners during their upcoming budget workshop. Sheriff Mast believes use of the federal funds is appropriate and is working on the information needed to support his belief.

Ms. Carey will work on developing a prototype online application submission process for business and organizations to use to request funding from the county. She plans on demonstrating the system at the next meeting.

Mr. Kelly asked if Dr. Sobie has seen any information from other counties that would indicate that the counties are looking at using funds to support external requests (i.e., a nonprofit's request for example). Dr. Sobie stated that he hasn't received any information, for instance through an administrative listserv, about the use of funds. Dr. Sobie will make some inquiries directly to see what he can find out.

The meeting ended at 10:10 a.m. The next meeting will be October 29 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room.

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