

**Porter County American Rescue Plan
Steering Committee
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 3:45 p.m.
Commissioners' Meeting Room Chambers
Porter County Administration Center 155 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso IN 46383**

Members Present:

Jeremy Rivas
Laura Blaney
Vicki Urbanik – Non voting
Andy Bozak
Scott McClure – Non voting

Vicki Urbanik called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion: Andy Bozak moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2022 meeting.
Seconded by Jeremy Rivas and so approved.

Update on Subcommittees

All subcommittees have met at least once. They are now ready to begin hearing presentations from the funding requests. The deadline was March 31st. They received 63 requests. They have \$57 Million in requests. It will take at least 22 meeting to hear these requests.

Behavioral Health and Social Services – They have 10 requests from nine applicants.

Nonprofit and Employer – They had 25 applicants. They reviewed the list and took a vote and eliminated nine applications for a total of 16. Notices have gone out to everyone. This committee is not like the others. They are focusing on assistance to small businesses and nonprofits. The Rule requires the subcommittee to identify economic harm exacerbated by COVID and how the response addresses that harm. They also have to identify if the response is reasonably proportional to the harm. The County COVID-19 Response subcommittee is hearing 15 proposals but only from 6 applicants. Infrastructure and Facilities has 13 proposals from nine applicants. If they stay on track they hope all recommendations will be to the Steering Committee by the end of May.

Jeremy Rivas asked if the total request is \$57 Million. Vicki replied yes. He hopes the requests get whittled down some. Andy Bozak asked if all the people will be at the meeting when they are reviewing the recommendations? Vicki Urbanik replied each subcommittee will present to the Steering Committee. They are still working on the format. Vicki will present the Steering Committee's recommendations to the Commissioners. Andy Bozak asked if the requesters will understand if some of the requests are given less than requested. Vicki explained each committee is supposed to ask the presenter that question – will they take less if offered.

Laura Blaney read the Guidelines:

PROPOSALS: All proposals must be submitted via the Porter County website. Applicants will have the ability to provide additional information when making their presentation to the Subcommittee. Late proposals will not be accepted. The Steering Committee will review all proposals to route to the appropriate Subcommittee. The Chair will determine if any proposal is clearly in noncompliance; non-compliant proposals will not be forwarded to a Subcommittee. Applicants may appeal the rejection to the Steering Committee.

MULTIPLE PROPOSALS: Applicants with multiple proposals have the option of grouping all their proposals into one or submit multiple requests.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment will be allowed at the conclusion of each meeting. Those making comments should give their name and municipality/township. They should come to one of the microphones to speak so that their comments can be recorded. Each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes each. (Note: This section concerns only the public comment portion of each meeting, not the time allotted to groups making presentations.) Individuals making comments about proposals presented at Subcommittee meetings are to make their comments and direct their questions to the Subcommittee, not the applicants.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: Subcommittees should rank each proposal they are recommending. The Subcommittees will present their recommendations to the Steering Committee and will explain to the Steering Committee why they are recommending the particular projects.

NON-ENUMERATED USES: If a proposed expenditure is not enumerated in the Final Rule and/or if a project is targeted to populations not identified as eligible beneficiaries, it will be up to the applicants to explain why they believe their proposal complies with the Final Rule.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS: Subcommittees should ask applicants if they are willing to accept a lesser amount of funding than requested. The Steering Committee may reduce the funding amounts recommended by each Subcommittee.

PROJECT CHECKLIST: The Steering Committee will work on a proposed checklist that the Subcommittees will present to the Steering Committee for the recommended projects. Tentatively, the summary will describe each project, the dollar amount recommended, and confirmation that the projects meet the Steering Committee's "priority considerations," where applicable.

The Steering Committee also adopted General Priority Considerations

ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds constitute a one-time, non-recurring federal award to the County. The use of these funds should reduce, not increase, the need for on-going local expenditures in the future. Priority consideration will be given to proposals that:

- Are an eligible use of ARPA funds as stated in Treasury's Final Rule
 - Are one-time
 - Leverage matching funds from other sources to the extent allowed
 - Serve a large number of people in Porter County and the target population served
 - Are from agencies or organizations located in Porter County or primarily having operations in Porter County
 - Are effective and impactful on the use of the ARPA money
 - Are capable to obligate (contract) the funds by December 31, 2024
 - Are capable to complete spending by the deadline of December 31, 2026
- Other considerations that may affect funding recommendations:
- Level of federal aid that the applicant has received through other COVID-19 programs; degree to which the applicant has received or requested ARPA assistance from other agencies
 - Commitment to adhere to non-discrimination policies
 - Commitment to adhere to best labor practices
 - Degree to which the applicant has had negative audit findings, late tax filings, suspension of non-profit status, or other violations of federal, state, or local regulations

Discussion of Requirement to Obligate ARPA Funds by December 31, 2024

Attorney Scott McClure explained the Final Rule provides the date by when the awards have to be obligated and then spent. There are projects that have a longer time frame. If the money is not obligated by that date, the money gets returned to the Treasury. If they don't have an engineer etc. already, they will be on a tight timeline. Everyone will be doing projects. The engineering and architectural world feels that and will be busy. Attorney McClure suggested the deadline be July 1, 2024. This gives the County time to find someone else if it is obvious the project will not meet the deadline. They do not want to refund the Treasury just because they missed a deadline.

Andy Bozak asked if that would hurt anybody. Laura Blaney pointed out that is two years out. It should be fine. Vicki asked to clarify that it is July 1, 2024 to obligate. This is correct.

Motion: Laura Blaney moved to make the date to obligate ARPA funds July 1, 2024. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

Vicki Urbanik advised all subcommittees will be advised of this date and will be required to ask each presenter if they can meet that deadline.

Jeremy Rivas asked if funds would be available to hire Vicki Urbanik to see this project through to the end.

Review of Upcoming Project & Expenditure Report

April 30th is a major deadline for most government units to submit their quarterly project and expenditure report. One report has been submitted that was for the quarter ending December

31st. There was really nothing for that report. This one will have some numbers reported. Vicki Urbanik has received notification of a seminar where they talked about the reporting. With this upcoming report they must address how they are going to cover revenue loss. Will they figure it all out and calculate or will they take the standard allowance. Vicki will review the figures one more time because she feels the County will come out better taking the standard allowance. There will be some revenue dipping in the revenue loss category for the Marquette Trail. Part of the trail will be a match for Federal Funds.

Motion: Laura Blaney moved to take the more favorable route of declaring standard or itemized Revenue Loss. Jeremy Rivas seconded the motion and so approved.

Jeremy Rivas asked if they can take some of the \$10 Million for general operations of the County. Vicki replied yes.

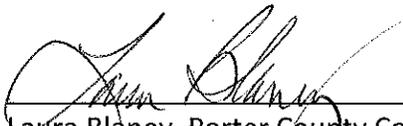
Next Meeting

The subcommittees should be done by the end of May. It was determined June 16, 2022 at 5:00 will be scheduled to hear recommendations from the subcommittees. June 23, 2022 at 5:00 will be scheduled to formulate the final plan to present to the Commissioners.

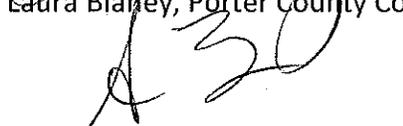
Public Comment

Citizen – You are doing a great job.

There being no more business the meeting adjourned.



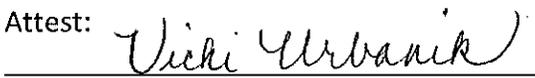
Laura Blaney, Porter County Commissioner



Andy Bozak, Porter County Council



Jeremy Rivas, Porter County Council

Attest: 

Vicki Urbanik, Porter County Auditor