

**Porter County American Rescue Plan  
Sub Committee County Covid Health Response  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 1:00 p.m.  
Commissioners' Meeting Room Chambers  
Porter County Administration Center 155 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso IN 46383**

**Voting Members Present:**

Laura Blaney  
Sylvia Graham  
Mike Jessen

**Citizen Members Present:**

Patrice Mullen  
Karen Nelson  
Connie Rudd – Non-voting Health Department Advisor  
Rhonda Young – Non-voting HR

**Also Present:**

Attorney Scott McClure  
Vicki Urbanik

**Motion:** Sylvia Graham moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting.  
Mike Jessen seconded the motion and so approved.

**Scoring and ranking of applicants**

**EMA -- Pay for volunteers: \$20,458.75**

The Council has already addressed some of this. It is the idea that it has already been discussed. The overall rules of paying volunteers is problematic.

**Motion:** Sylvia Graham moved that this request not be scored. Karen Nelson seconded the motion and so approved.

**EMA – Operations Center laptops: \$27,846.31**

None of the laptops will be used for the video wall.

**EMA – Enclosed trailer: \$12,150**

This is a request that will allow us to respond more quickly and transfer supplies. This is a worthy request. They will get a lot of use out of it.

**EMA – Deployment tent: \$59,595.25**

There are concerns. EMA covers 5 counties. They already have a large tent. It would be nice to have our own. It doesn't seem it will be utilized a lot of times.

**Auditor's Office – PCG Health Insurance Fund: \$2,000,000**

This is an important and worthy project.

There were employees that needed additional help. And we might not be done with that yet.

**Auditor's Office – Electronic transfer books: \$450,000**

With COVID people are coming in. It is costly but it meets the requirements. Allowing people to access this from home is what we are looking for.

**Porter County Public Library System – Premium pay: \$304,490**

We value the library employees. They already received premium pay from the library board. The county has some employees that did not receive any premium pay. Given the number of requests and the fact that those requests are over the amount available it was suggested that this request not be voted on.

**Motion:** Karen Nelson moved that this request not be scored. Mike Jessen seconded the motion and so approved.

**Porter County Public Library System – Outdoor learning libraries, \$1,000,000**

This request stretches across the county and promotes outdoor learning. The projects are scalable. It was discussed that they will not give anything out of their Rainy Day Fund for a match. Their programs are free. If the amount is reduced, it would be nice to know how they would reduce their projects. If they are not willing to tap into their Rainy Day fund maybe it is not that important. Is this committee's recommendation contingent on Portage's match?

**Motion:** Laura Blaney moved to appropriate \$750,000 towards the library park improvement with the requirement that all four libraries listed see some improvements. Sylvia Graham second the motion and so approved.

**IT – Jury room TVs: \$3,129.95**

**IT/Commissioners – AV upgrades for Commissioners' Chambers: \$127,444.67**

This is for live streaming. It will show the front and back of people in attendance and speakers. The sound will be improved.

**Commissioners – CivicMEDIA module: \$27,317.26**

This is for the website.

**HR/Commissioners – CivicHR module: \$61,755**

**Commissioners – CivicOptimize module: \$78,358**

This is the game changer. It allows citizens to access on line things they now have to come into the building to do.

**Health Department – Office remodeling: \$1,000,000**

This will allow them to expand downstairs into some offices not being used. It will help with privacy.

| <b>Organization</b>                    | <b>Rank</b> | <b>Recommended Funding</b> |
|--|-------------|----------------------------|
| Health Department remodeling           | 292         | \$1,000,000                |
| EMA Enclosed trailer                   | 282         | \$12,150                   |
| County Health Insurance Fund           | 269         | \$2,000,000                |
| Commissioner’s CivicOptimize           | 266         | \$78,358                   |
| Auditor’s Transfer books               | 261         | \$450,000                  |
| Commissioner’s CivicMEDIA              | 254         | \$27,317.26                |
| IT Jury Room TVs                       | 248         | \$3,129.95                 |
| IT/Commissioner’s AV upgrades          | 248         | \$127,444.67               |
| HR/Commissioner’s CivicHR              | 248         | \$61,755                   |
| EMA Operation Center laptops           | 240         | \$27,846.31                |
| Porter County Library outdoor learning | 238         | \$750,000                  |
| EMA Deployment Tent                    | 143         | <u>\$59,595.25</u>         |
|  |             | \$4,597,596                |

All the Committee recommendations go to the Steering Committee. They make a recommendation to the Commissioners. Then it goes to the Council.

**Public Comment** - none

The meeting adjourned.