

**Porter County American Rescue Plan
Steering Committee
Thursday, June 16, 2022, 5 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.

Porter County's Process for Expending the Funds

Vicki Urbanik discussed the process that has been used to date and also going forward. The US Treasury has stated - Your organization must develop and implement effective internal controls to ensure funding decisions constitute eligible uses of funds and document determinations. This is from the US Treasury's compliance and reporting guidance. Vicki's office has approved their internal control policies and procedure document. This is a requirement. It will be audited.

The County is the recipient of \$33 Million. They have no requirement or obligation to award the money to other organizations. They can spend it all on County government projects. Porter County has decided to share it with organizations. The organizations receiving funds will be subrecipients or beneficiaries. Subrecipients carry out an enumerated use on behalf of the recipient. The County has to comply with Uniform Guidance. These include procurement procedures and conflict of interest rules. Subrecipients are subject to risk assessment. Beneficiaries are small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries if they can show economic harm caused by the pandemic. The response must be reasonable and proportionate to the harm. Beneficiaries are not subject to Uniform Guidance.

Projects will be reviewed by the Auditor's office to make sure they are in compliance. There will be a written agreement with all subrecipients and beneficiaries. Both will have to provide documents throughout the process. An internal account will be set up for each project. Each account will provide a voucher and supporting documents. The Auditor reports expenditures.

Over the last few months 23 public meetings were held. Vicki has talked to as many counties as she can. Most of them have not gone to the extent Porter County has. The subcommittees have gotten the list down to 48 requests for a total of a little over \$35 Million.

Subcommittee chairs were asked to be at the Steering Committee meetings or have a representative come. The Steering Committee does not want to repeat what the subcommittees have already done. July 12th is the Commissioner's meeting. The 26th is the Council meeting. The standard allowance for the revenue loss category is \$10 Million. The US Treasury has to be told if Porter County is going to document its revenue loss or take the allowance of \$10 Million. Vicki Urbanik recommends taking the allowance to safeguard the County. Budget time is coming up. There will be some concerns. Every county Vicki has talked to is taking the standard allowance. If a subrecipient does not meet the deadline, the County will take the award back and the County will look for a way to expend it before the US Treasury's deadline. A lot of the subrecipients are ready to go with their projects as soon as they get the go ahead from the County. That is why they are trying to get this done by budget time. All applicants were asked if they can meet deadlines and all of them said yes.

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to take advantage of the Revenue Replacement Standard Allowance of \$10 Million Dollars. Laura Blaney seconded the motion and so approved.

It was discussed that not all the money should be sent out the door and then spend the next few years trying to find a way to do county government projects.

The Steering Committee now has approximately \$19-20 million to allocated. Jeremy Rivas found the median score from the rankings presented by the subcommittees. He suggested all requests that are above the median be moved forward. All those below the median be eliminated. After doing that the number of projects left are 32 for a cost of approximately \$21 million. This method respects what the subcommittees did and gets it closer to what is available. Discussion took place regarding the projects that would be allocated to the Revenue Loss category.

Vicki Urbanik said her request for \$2 Million dollars for the County Health Insurance plan can be moved to Loss Revenue. Attorney McClure stated there has been a significant increase in claims due to COVID. Laura Blaney stated she would like the rankings on the web page before their next meeting.

Discussion and Evaluation of Subcommittee Scores

Infrastructure and Facilities – Average 45.02 -Recommended Requests \$6,554,513

Vicki Urbanik stated she will be recommending that the Pleasant Township request be moved to the Revenue Loss category.

Motion: Laura Blaney moved to move forward the requests that scored above 45.02. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

Behavioral Health and Social Services – Average 45.93 – Recommended Requests \$3,100,000

Andy Bozak discussed moving up the Caring Place. He stated that this proposal may have scored higher but one subcommittee member felt they did not answer one of the questions asked of them. He also feels the Woman's Club should be looked at for moving forward.

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to move forward six requests of the Behavioral Health and Social Services that scored above 45.93 and to look at the requests of The Caring Place and Valparaiso Women's Club. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

County Covid-19 Health Response – Average 49.82 Recommended Requests \$3,567,825

Laura Blaney suggested bringing up the IT and Library request. Vicki Urbanik explained during the library presentation they said they would not go into the Rainy Day Fund for a match to an award. Their Board was meeting the same night as the presentation. At that meeting they made the decision to chip in \$140,000 from Rainy Day Fund and reduce the request to \$750,000. She also stated that the laptops to be replaced in the EMA request were donated 9 years ago. They cannot be upgraded.

Jeremy Rivas asked about the Auditor's transfer books. These are books that are in use every single day. They are a record of property transfers. This would allow the public to be able to access these records from home. Jeremy Rivas got a phone call saying that the Health Department is getting more money from another source. Toni Downing explained this is a little bit of money from the State. It has to do with vaccines.

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to move forward all requests of the County Covid-19 Health Response that scored above 49.82 and to consider all of the requests below the median score. Laura Blaney seconded the motion and so approved.

Nonprofit and Employers – Average 43.95 – Recommended Requests – \$7,345,419

This is the bigger ask group. If there are any below the line that need to be brought up then we could reduce some of those above the line. The presenters were all asked if they would accept less and all of them said yes. The committee already has reduced some of them from what they asked for. Some of the projects may not be able to take less due to the nature of the project.

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to move forward 11 projects that scored above the median of 43.95. Laura Blaney seconded the motion and so approved.

Attorney McClure asked that all Committee Chairs, IT, and Library be asked to be at next week's meeting of the Steering Committee. It was requested to have a better description of the project so they can figure out if it can be reduced.

Jeremy Rivas stated a lot of the money is going to go to construction projects. He requested since it is tied to the County, the Responsible Bid Ordinance be followed. At the end of the day it is the County that is spending the money so the Responsible Bid Ordinance has to be followed.

Jeremy Rivas discussed some of the Townships are not taking the money that the County gave them. They do not want to deal with the paperwork. It was suggested that the money they don't take be reallocated to the remaining Townships. Attorney McClure explained the original ARP ordinance awarded \$500,000 to the Trustees for poor relief. Eligibility has been expanded to all allowed ARP uses except for Revenue Replacement. Today they got the first request for some of that money. There was an informational meeting with the Trustees giving them the process. At that meeting some of them said they may not be asking for that money.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2022 5:00 pm

Public Comment

Ruth Vance – She was on the Nonprofit & Employers subcommittee. Will the power point Vicki did at the beginning of the meeting be on line – Yes. Will the schedule of rankings be on line – Yes. On the Nonprofit Committee there are a lot of projects that were ready to go. A lot of the bigger asks have other sources of funding. If their ask was reduced, they may be able to still do their project. This would leave money for smaller requests. Laura Blaney asked if each presenter was asked if they had other funds. Ruth replied they did find out if there was other funding available.

Walt Breitinger – Thanks to all for working so hard. He pointed out he cannot hear a lot of the people speaking from the dais.

Rankings by Subcommittees and Steering Committee June 16 votes

Below are the ARPA Subcommittees' average scores for each project. On June 16, 2022, the ARPA Steering Committee voted to recommend the projects above the line. The funding amounts listed are subject to change. Projects below the line marked with an asterisk are those that the Steering Committee agreed to keep under consideration.

Infrastructure & Facilities	Average Score	
Flood Reduction Systems	56.2	\$ 1,340,000
Failed Storm Water Systems	55	\$ 3,430,000
Shorewood Forest Storm Water	54.4	\$ 685,000
Porter Co Ag/Expo	54.4	\$ 777,513
Shirley Heinze - Storm Water partnership	53.6	\$ 717,000
Porter County Conservation Trust	52.2	\$ 75,000
Pleasant Twp Trustee	50.6	\$ 150,000
		\$ 7,174,513
Blackhawk Beach	33	\$ 285,000
Izaak Walton League	32.2	\$ 700,000

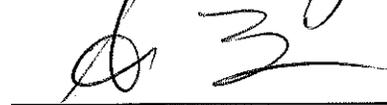
Indiana Dunes Tourism	27.6	\$ 3,000,000	
Kettle Lake	26	<u>\$ 700,000</u>	
			\$ 11,859,513
Behavioral Health & Social Services	Average Score		
Gabriel's Horn (Portage/Center Twp)	54.2	\$ 300,000	
Project Neighbors	49.6	\$ 1,000,000	
PACT	47.8	\$ 50,000	
Porter Starke Services	47.2	\$ 1,000,000	
<u>Housing Opportunities Phase 1 + 2</u>	<u>46.2</u>	<u>\$ 750,000</u>	\$ 3,100,000
Valparaiso Woman's Association*	45.2	\$ 80,000	
Family Promise	42.2	\$ 50,000	
The Caring Place*	40.8	\$ 1,000,000	
Porter County Community Foundation	40.2	<u>\$ 700,000</u>	
			\$ 4,930,000
County COVID-19 Response	Average Score		
Health Department remodeling	58.4	\$1,000,000	
EMA Enclosed trailer	56.4	\$12,150	
County Health Insurance Fund	53.8	\$2,000,000	
Commissioners CivicOptimize	53.2	\$78,358	
Auditor's Transfer books	52.2	\$450,000	
<u>Commissioners CivicMEDIA</u>	<u>50.8</u>	<u>\$27,317</u>	\$ 3,567,825
IT Jury room TVs*	49.6	\$3,130	
IT/Commissioners AV upgrades*	49.6	\$127,445	
HR/Commissioners CivicHR*	49.6	\$61,755	
EMA Operation Center laptops*	48	\$27,846	
Porter County Library outdoor learning*	47.6	\$700,000	
EMA Deployment tent	28.6	<u>\$59,595</u>	
			\$4,547,596
Non-Profits and Employers	Average Score		
Opportunity Enterprises	53	\$ 1,500,000	
The MAAC Foundation Inc	51.4	\$ 1,500,000	
Shirley Heinze Land Trust	51.4	\$ 617,500	
VNA Hospice of NWI	48.6	\$ 500,000	
Hilltop Neighborhood House	48.2	\$ 400,000	
Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy— Revenue loss	46.8	\$ 5,000	
Community Theater Guild/CST	46.8	\$ 62,125	
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater NWI	46.8	\$ 1,500,000	
Neighbors' Educational Opportunities	46.4	\$ 1,106,794	
Kidfunds Corporation	45	\$ 24,000	
<u>Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy— Boardwalk</u>	<u>44.8</u>	<u>\$ 130,000</u>	\$ 7,345,419
Nana Clare's Kitchen	43.6	\$ 10,000	
Valparaiso YMCA	36.8	\$ 950,000	
Liberty Twp Volunteer Fire Dpt	34.8	\$ 6,000,000	

Dressed for School	34.2	\$ 10,000
Porter County Project Kids	24.6	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
		\$ 14,330,419

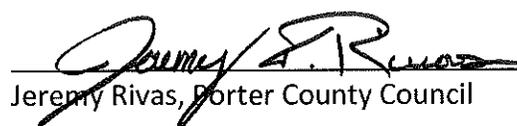
There being no more business the meeting adjourned.



Laura Blaney, Porter County Commissioner

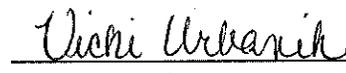


Andy Bozak, Porter County Council



Jeremy Rivas, Porter County Council

Attest:



Vicki Urbanik, Porter County Auditor