

**Warren County Commissioners
Work Session
Commissioners Conference Room
November 8, 2021, 12:00 p.m.**

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin called the Work Session of the Warren County Commissioners to order with Commissioner Jeff Eggleston present

Staff Present: Pamela Matve, Chief Clerk, Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director, Lorri Dunlap, Grants Administrator, Attorney Nathaniel Schmidt, Kenneth McCorrison, Public Safety Director, and Jonie Smitley

Citizens Present: Josh Cotton (WTO), Missy Griffin, Jane Dunshie, Karen Black, Kelli Knapp, Donald Rosie, James Spangler, Paul Pascuzzi, Troy Clawson and representatives from various businesses that submitted bids.

Announcements:

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin started the meeting by stating that the meeting will be recorded.

Public Hearings:

Old Items of Discussion:

New Items of Discussion:

Open Bids for the Library Renovation Project: Bids were

	General Construction	Plumbing	Mechanical	Electrical & Technology
Caliber	\$806,579.00			
Hudson Construction	\$779,000.00			
Fred L Burns	\$636,000.00	\$56,900.00		
Citadel Services		\$41,640.00	\$330,000.00	
Ahlstrom Schaeffer Elec.				\$458,000.00
Arrow Electric				\$444,282.00
Cianco Mechanical		\$49,880.00		
Newman Plumbing		\$59,627.00		
Office Furniture Warehouse	\$131,159.00			
A&MP Electric				\$365,000.00

Lorri Dunlap, Grants Administrator stated that these bids will be reviewed and awarded at a later date.

EMS Presentation: Paul Pascuzzi, Kenneth McCorrison, Public Safety Director, Jonie Smitley and Donnie Rosie gave a presentation on the EMS situation in Warren County.

Paul Pascuzzi explained that there are approximately 26 municipalities in the county, and only 11 have EMS staff. The City of Warren is providing EMS by paid personnel, while the other 10 are providing EMS by volunteers.

He went onto state that it is the Borough or Township's responsibility to provide Emergency Medical Services to its residents.

Kenneth McCorrison, Public Safety Director stated that out of the ten volunteer fire departments that have EMS staff, five of those do not provide EMS during the day as their volunteers have full time jobs.

He went onto state that between March and October 2020 there were 1,505 dispatched calls, and 538 of those were not covered by the contracting agency.

Jonie Smitley briefed everyone on what they are doing to help with retention, and recruitment efforts. While Donnie

Rosie spoke on the website, and how to express the needs.

Paul wrapped up by stating that last year the Commissioners provided funds from CARES Act to cover Phase I. They are now asking for \$27,880.00 from the American Recoveries Program Act funding to do Phase Interest Income.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin asked if they could proceed if they were not given the \$27,880.00 to which Donnie stated they would work with what they were given.

ARPA funds: Youngsville Borough stated that while they initially asked for upwards of \$300,000.00 for their infrastructure, they are now amending that to a request of \$207,000.00; the total project cost is \$500,000.00.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director has come up with an application process for non-profits, and municipalities to request funding.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin then stated that everyone needs to keep in mind that the majority of the ARPA funds will most likely go toward broadband alongside PPE, and to cover the infectious nurse. But we want to know what the needs are. So far three municipalities have requested funds for their infrastructures.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that with the passage of a bill for broadband, this will help with the costs. There are clear lines for utilization and we to work on our buckets and how much money will go into each bucket.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin asked Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director to come up with a proposal, and present it at Wednesday's meeting.

Troy Clawson asked if there were any funds going to be used in Youngsville for broadband; if not then can they be given that money for something else.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that they are not looking at cost per area, we know there is a need and we will do as much as we can where we can.

Projects:

Upcoming Commissioner Meeting Review:

The agenda for the November 10, 2021 public meeting was reviewed.

Department/Committee Updates

Commissioner's Schedule

General Discussion

Public Comment:

Jane Dunshie asked if there was a group working on COVID issues as there was last year. Kenneth McCorrison, Public Safety Director stated that because we are not in a declared emergency state, we do not have a group.

Jane then asked Kenneth McCorrison, Public Safety Director what is happening on the county level. Kenneth McCorrison, Public Safety Director stated that the county is not, Penn State is dealing with this.

James Spangler said that there is an issue with this, but no one knows what is happening, why are we not being updated. What can we do to educate the public on COVID? Is it the county's responsibility or is it the responsibility of the hospital to get true information out there?

Jonie Smitley stated that the hospital has a good plan in place. Its not just the vaccine that needs education, but continue to educate on the if you are sick stay home, hand washing etc.

Karen Black stated that she would like an update on the COVID situation at the jail.

Jonie stated that there will be an update, as she is heading to the jail after this meeting. She went onto state that there are two quarantine units, one for male and one for female. The number of inmates had risen to approximately 73 but that is down at this time. Along with staff, we are not running short staffed.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston then stated that he is working with WCCBI and applied for a grant for marketing for

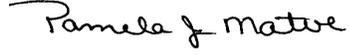
the vaccination etc.

Jane Dunshie asked the Commissioner if there is a public meeting scheduled that will explain the American Recoveries Program Act and what the money can be used for.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated the feds have put out the guidelines. Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that our buckets have not been created, but there will not be a special meeting to discuss this subject as it is discussed at the work sessions and the public meetings.

With nothing further, the work session was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully,



Pamela J. Matve
Chief Clerk

