

JOHNSON COUNTY SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022
ARPA COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Baird, Commissioner, at 10:00 A.M. Ron Deer, Councilman, Rob Henderson, Councilman, Shena Johnson, County Attorney, Kevin Walls, Commissioner, and Jonathan T. Myers, Councilman, were present.

PRESENTATION BY COMCAST

Matt Kelly, Comcast Heartland Region, Government Affairs Director, appeared before the ARPA Committee to present information regarding Comcast. Mr. Kelly stated there is a Grant Application being considered by the State of Indiana called Next Level Connections. Comcast is expecting notification on the award of this Grant in the near future. Mr. Kelly explained how they would utilize the Grant Funds to service approximately 333 homes/businesses in Johnson County that will be built without Internet Connections. Mr. Kelly expressed Comcast's excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to bring Comcast into Johnson County. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily. Mr. Baird stated he was part of a recent meeting that discussed future OCRA Grants. He believes there are opportunities for Broadband Grants in the future that we are not aware of at this moment. He said it is prudent for the Committee to investigate opportunities that may be available in the future regarding Broadband prior to making any decisions.

DISCUSSION OF ARPA EXPENDITURES

Mr. Henderson stated the site selected for the Drake Road Project would be a challenge for a multi-story building from a parking and drainage perspective. He said it might be more desirable for this location to be turned over to a private developer and put on the tax rolls. Mr. Henderson discussed the possibility of relocating the Johnson County Highway Department and utilizing that space. The Highway Department sits on approximately eleven acres; there have been talks in the past about partnering with the State and other municipality's, transportation/fleet departments to utilize and open up this site for a possible complex. He stated this could alleviate some of the problems with parking and drainage. Mr. Henderson said he was in support of the Drake Road Project; however, he is not excited about the location. He asked the Committee to give some thought to an alternate site. Mr. Walls said to keep in mind approximately two acres of the eleven acres at the Highway Department sits in a flood zone and cannot be utilized. Mr. Walls asked the ARPA Committee for specific direction in regards to moving forward with the Drake Road Project. Mr. Henderson asked the Committee, as well as the Commissioners and Council Members, to keep the opportunity in mind to re-purpose and re-utilize the eleven acres the Highway Department currently sits on. Mr. Henderson made a proposal the Committee not derail the efforts by Mr. Walls, or the efforts of others that are currently underway for the Drake Road Project and allow Mr. Walls to continue to move forward on the current path for the Drake Road Project. Mr. Walls made a proposal to pause the Drake Road Project in order to have a joint Commissioner/Council meeting to discuss this project together before continuing to move forward. Detailed discussion was held and questions were addressed.

Mr. Baird stated the only recommendations that can be put forth today by this Committee are decisions based on using ARPA Funds. He stated he would like to recommend a pause be placed on using any additional ARPA Funds for the Drake Road Project until further discussion by Commissioners and Council. All members of the ARPA Committee agreed to pause the Drake Road Project for further discussion.

It was determined there would be a joint Commissioner/Council meeting in order to revisit the needs for the Drake Road Project as well as the possibility of relocating this project to a different site.

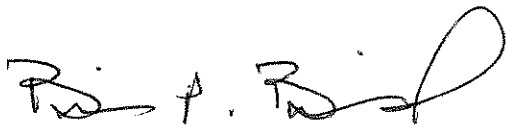
April 25, 2022 at 4:30 is the tentative scheduled time and date for the joint Commissioner/Council meeting.

The Committee continued to discuss future meeting dates and the need to prioritize different projects

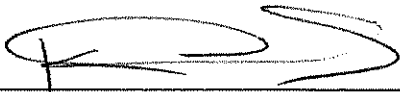
John Sturm, CEO at JCREMC, and President of JC Fiber, approached the podium and thanked the Committee for consideration of the first \$1 million of ARPA Funds. He stated the first three zones are nearly built out. Discussion was held regarding zones 4-6 and the next disbursement of ARPA funds.

AJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. West moved to adjourn. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.



Brian Baird



Kevin Walls



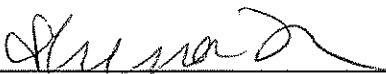
Jonathon T. Myers



Rob Henderson



Ron Deer



Shena Johnson

Attest:

Pamela J. Burton
Auditor

