

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022
ARPA COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron West, Commissioner, at 3:00 p.m. Ron Deer, Councilman, Kevin Walls, Commissioner, (left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.), Jonathan T. Myers, Councilman, and Rob Henderson, Councilman, were present; Brian Baird, Commissioner, arrived at 3:18 p.m.

Johnson County REMC and JCFiber Project Update

John Sturm, CEO of Johnson County REMC, appeared before the Commissioners to give an update on the JCREMC/JCFiber ARPA Grant Project. Mr. Sturm stated the project was going great and he extended appreciation to the Commissioners for their support in this sustainable and long term investment. He said he wanted to make himself available for any questions they may have. Mr. Sturm said inflation has caused the cost of this project to increase by at least \$2,000,000. Increasing interest rates have negatively impacted interest expense by approximately \$200,000 per year. Despite these increases, a supplement award would enable them to commit to lowering prices as first presented and expediting the project by six (6) months with a mid-2024 completion.

Mr. Sturm reviewed prior existing commitments for underserved customers in Johnson County, noting a summary of the current project status.

- Zones one (1) through three (3) are ninety percent (90%) complete and will be finished soon
- Total passing's are 3,592 premises in zones one (1) through three (3)
- Zones four (4) through six (6) include total passing's of approximately 3,200
- Zone four (4) has been announced and engineering is underway, mainline installations have begun
- Zones five (5) and six (6) timing will be announced this winter

Mr. Sturm completed his presentation giving details of the proposed price decrease that will be effective for all customers no later than February 1, 2023.

Discussion was held and all questions were addressed accordingly.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Sturm for the update and advised they would take the information presented under advisement.

Discussion of Homeless/Emergency Housing

Lydia Wales, Trustee for Franklin, Union, and Needham Township, appeared before the Commissioners with an update on the Transitional Housing in Johnson County Project. Mrs. Wales stated she had exhausted all avenues of trying to locate suitable Transitional Housing in Johnson County with no positive results. She stated she is at a loss and is reaching out to this Committee for guidance and assistance. Discussion was held, questions and ideas were discussed.

Mr. Walls asked the Committee to allow him to work with Mrs. Wales on this project and come back to the next ARPA meeting with additional ideas, recommendations, and cost estimates.

The Committee agreed that Mr. Walls would assist Mrs. Wales with this project.

Update on Funding Grants for Local Food Pantries

Mr. Deer presented a draft application for the Food Pantry Grant. The application outlined basic information required before being considered to receive funds. The Committee discussed fair and equitable distribution of funds to local food pantries. Gail Richards, Johnson County Community Foundation, came to the podium and explained they are a nonprofit organization that manages more than 350 funds and \$40 million in assets; she stated they are capable and willing to administer this Grant for the ARPA Committee. Discussion was held and all questions were addressed accordingly.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Mr. Deer's efforts and proceed with the application format based on distribution of funds on a household basis. In addition, this motion allows Johnson County Community Foundation to provide fee based assistance with this project. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Update on ARPA Expenditures

Adam Gadberry, County Attorney, appeared before the Commissioners with an update on ARPA expenditures. Mr. Gadberry stated some of the numbers may change depending on where certain projects are placed. As of today under Lost Revenue (Discretionary) Funds there has been \$3,341,000.00 appropriated; leaving a balance of \$6,659,000.00. Under Regulatory Funds there has been \$5,677,237.23 appropriated; leaving a balance of \$15,044,848.77. Total Regulatory Fund expenditures are \$3,500,263.92.

Discussion of Using Regulatory Funds for a Nineveh Park

Mr. Baird said he had researched this area and there was definitely a need for a Park in Nineveh. He has located a small parcel of property, approximately .6 acres but doesn't think it is large enough for a big park, however, it may be suitable for a small memorial park. He asked the ARPA Committee to earmark dollars for this project and give him additional time to research community involvement and potential park schematics. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. Baird made a motion \$100,000 be earmarked for Nineveh Park land acquisition. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

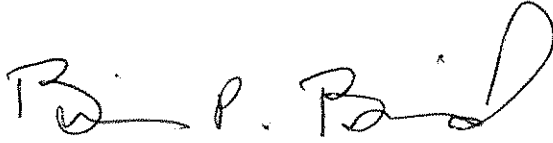
Mr. Deer thanked Mr. Henderson for his service on the ARPA Committee; this will be the last meeting he will attend.

Additional discussion was held regarding Grants for Local Food Pantries.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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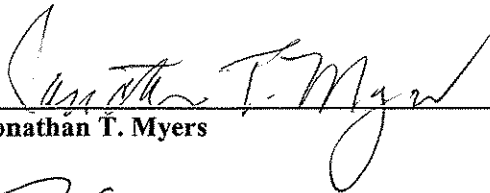
Brian Baird



Kevin Walls



Ron West



Jonathan T. Myers



Rob Henderson

absent

Ron Deer

Attest:

Pamela J. Burton
Auditor

