

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - TUESDAY, MAY 17, 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, Kevin Walls, Commissioner, Jonathan T. Myers, Councilman, and Ron West, Commissioner, were present.

Approval of funding for Schematic Design Plans for Highway Property

Mr. Walls stated the initial intent was to build a Health Department and a Coroner's Office on the Drake Road Property. The architect was asked to complete drawings for the placement of these two facilities on the Drake Road Property. He said the project was put on hold in order to review an alternate development of a Highway Campus. He said the drawings for the original project were done and the cost was \$51,000.00. Mr. Walls noted these drawing could be used at a later time, assuming the original Health Department/Coroner's Office project would continue at a different site.

Barb Davis, County Coordinator, reminded the Committee the \$51,000.00 Architect fee for the original project had previously been approved and appropriated.

Mr. Walls said he would like to talk about the Highway Campus Project. He asked the Committee if anyone had any specific topics they would like to discuss. He said the Campus Project would consist of relocating the Highway Department to a separate building site. This project would include building a new Probation Department, Health Department, Coroner's Office, and Community Corrections, and possibly including one of the Courts; the cost would be approximately \$50,000,000.

Shena Johnson, County Attorney, stated the cost for the schematic design can be paid from the \$10,000,000 ARPA Discretionary Fund.

Mrs. Davis stated, at the prior ARPA Committee meeting Wes Harrison, Project Manager, said the schematic design would cost \$25,000 - \$30,000.

Mr. Myers stated he would like to see a collaborative effort with the City of Greenwood and the City of Franklin regarding the relocation of the Highway Department.

Mr. Baird stated he had been talking with Franklin City Mayor, Steve Barnett, and asked him to be looking for possible properties to be considered for the Highway Department relocation.

Mr. Deer stated he would like to suggest we reach out to the State of Indiana to see if they would be interested in a collaborative effort in relocating the Highway Department to a central location.

Discussion was held regarding the demographics and placement of fuel pumps.

Mr. Henderson stated they should use all buckets of money for the overall project such as ARPA Funds and Jail LIT. He said he would support approving \$30,000 for Schematic Design Plans for the Highway Campus Property in order to determine if this project is feasible; and then determine what costs are eligible to be paid from each individual fund. There were many ideas and questions discussed.

Betsy Swearingen, Health Department Director, came to the podium and asked for a clarification of the Health Clinic they had referenced earlier. Mr. Deer stated this would be a Health Clinic for County Employees that would be ran by a private company. He noted the Health Clinic would be located on the site with the Health Department. Mr. Baird stated this is something that could be determined at a later date, if necessary. Discussion was held and several ideas were presented.

Mr. Deer made a motion to allow, but not exceed, \$30,000 for Schematic Design Plans for the New Campus Property. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion, which carried with a vote of 5-1; Mr. West voted no.

Mr. West spoke to the Committee noting his reasons for voting no. He gave suggestions on how to improve the process of ARPA recommendations moving forward.

Mr. Henderson stated the information provided today had been discussed in prior meetings and there was ample data to move forward with the Campus Schematic Design Plans. Detailed discussion was held.

Approval of Funding for I-69 Casing Pipe

Mr. Walls explained this is a sleeve underneath I-69 that runs from East to West for the purpose of interconnecting utilities. He said this is a 36" casing pipe that costs \$466,014.10 and can be paid under discretionary ARPA Funds; this is a project with INDOT and the Highway Department. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried with a vote of 5-1; Ron Deer voted no.

Discussion of Projects Related to Mental Health

Mr. Walls stated there was a suggested budget number of \$6,000,000 for Mental Health and there are lots of people here today ready for discussion.

Mr. Walls made a motion to allocate \$6,000,000 toward the Mental Health facility. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Johnson stated Mental Health could be paid from the ARPA Regulatory Funds.

Mr. Myers stated he would like to speak in regards to the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). He said CIT responds to people in our community who are in crisis; however, there is nowhere to take them for help once the initial crisis has been assessed. He stated there is a need to build a facility, a one-stop shop that includes assessments, care, and beds. Mr. Myers said he would like to see the budget number for Mental Health be increased to \$8,000,000. Discussion was held and there were many ideas put before the Committee.

Mr. West stated he has many times addressed the need for a new Community Corrections Facility. He said Therapeutic Communities are being used nationally, and have been productive in limiting recidivism and bringing people back to a productive lifestyle. Mr. West said he would like to incorporate this idea into Community Corrections and place more focus on this type project. Mr. West continued to say we currently have Adult and Child Mental Health that addresses Mental Health problems to the general public. We have Township Trustees who work in this area providing transitional housing and some medical benefits. Mr. West stated putting people with a diminished lifestyle back to productive society is the goal. He continued to talk about Mental Health Rehabilitation and known statistics.

Mr. Myers stated there are others who need Mental Health assessment that are not criminals and are not part of the judicial system, such as Veterans. He stated he does not think the Mental Health Facility should be part of Community Corrections.

Andy Barnhart, Sheriff's Chief Deputy, approached the podium and stated he had been part of the CIT discussions from very early on. He stated Law Enforcement plays a big part in dealing with Mental Health Crisis in our Community. He said the need is not only for a Mental Health Facility, but for Mental Health resources as well. Mr. Barnhart said the resources provided by individual people play a significant part when

dealing with Mental Health issues and the CIT does that. Discussion was held and questions were addressed.

Duane Burgess, Sheriff, approached the podium and stated Johnson County should be a front runner; we should lead and not follow where Mental Health Crisis is concerned.

Jim Engmark, Community Liaison, approached the podium and stated since January 1, 2022 they have logged ninety (90) mental health calls. Mr. Engmark explained how the CIT handled those calls and the normal process they follow. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Shannon Chambers, Probation, approached the podium and explained the necessary training requirements to be part of the CIT.

Lori Myers, Juvenile Community Corrections, approached the podium to speak as a youth advocate for juveniles who often find themselves in a Mental Health Crisis. Ms. Myers requested the Juvenile Justice System be welcomed into the discussions where it involves beds and services for Mental Health. Discussion was held and different ideas were discussed.

Mr. Myers made a motion to allocate \$8,000,000 from ARPA Regulatory Funds toward Mental Health facilities. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Walls stated this is a big project and he will need help. This project is in conjunction with the Jail, Community Corrections, building a brick and mortar facility, as well as providing beds. Further discussion was held and different ideas and opinions were discussed.

Mr. Deer stated he would like to suggest that other ideas be presented at the next meeting.

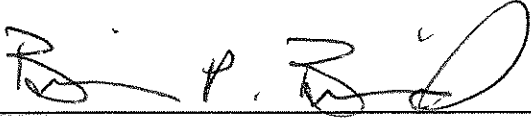
Mr. Baird stated that everyone could send their ideas and/or concerns to Mrs. Johnson; the Agenda would then be determined for the next meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated he would like to see the CIT Funding on the next ARPA Committee Meeting Agenda. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

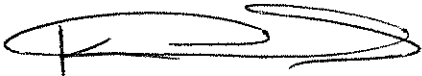
AJOURNMENT

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

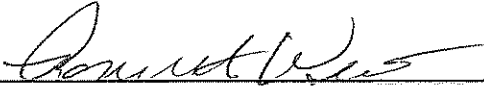
SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022
ARPA COMMITTEE



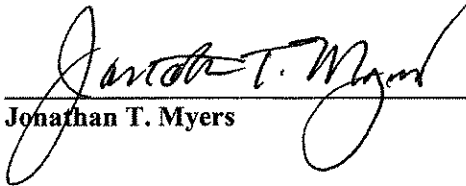
Brian Baird



Kevin Walls



Ron West



Jonathan T. Myers

Rob Henderson



Ron Deer

Attest:

Pamela J. Burton
Auditor

