

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - TUESDAY, MAY 24, 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, Ron West, Commissioner, were present, and Jonathan T. Myers, Councilman, attended via zoom.

Approval of Funding for Completion of Animal Shelter Renovation

Mr. Baird stated this project was not to exceed \$1,200,000. He said the schematic designs for this project are complete; this is for an addition to the west side of the current Animal Shelter, adding kennel areas for the bigger dogs, a sink, a new reception area on the north side of the building, exam rooms, work rooms, public meeting rooms, and an expansion of the cat area. Mr. Baird stated there has been an influx of animals due to the pandemic. Discussion was held.

Mr. Walls agreed the influx of animals is a direct result of the pandemic.

Shena Johnson, County Attorney, stated further research was needed to support the idea the influx of animals is a direct result of the pandemic. She said this project is assumed to be discretionary for now, but could later be determined regulatory once the research was complete.

Mr. Henderson asked if this project would result in the need of additional employees. Mr. Baird stated no, there was no room for new employees.

Mr. Baird stated this request was not to exceed \$1,200,000; noting this amount is in addition to the \$100,000 previously approved for the preparation of the schematic design.

Mrs. Johnson stated she believed this project would be funded from the discretionary ARPA Fund.

Mr. Myers stated he had toured this facility and it is a worthwhile project.

Mr. Deer made a motion to approve, but not exceed \$1,200,000 for completion of the Animal Shelter Expansion Project. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Consideration of Funding for Trailer for Health Department for Mobile Vaccination Clinic

Mr. Deer presented a slide presentation showing details of this proposal. He said he had met with Health Department officials in regards to meeting the needs of future mobile vaccination clinics. Mr. Deer presented schematics of an RV that could be used as a Mobile Clinic. Mr. Deer stated he was asking for consideration of \$160,000 for the purchase of a trailer for the Health Department. He said this unit would be used in response for future mobile vaccination clinics. It could also be used for other types of public health and community outreaches. He stated this purchase would be a qualified regulatory expenditure.

Betsy Swearingen, Health Department Director, came to the podium and stated a school nurse liaison had been hired to operate the COVID and vaccination clinics in an effort to catch the kids up on shots. She said this vehicle could be placed in the parking lot of each school and be used for this purpose. It could also be used for maternal and child health issues, smoking cessation, a wellness check outreach; she noted it would be easy access for public health screenings. Mrs. Swearingen said this vehicle could go anywhere the people needed it to go.

Mr. Deer said the vehicle could potentially be used as an employee health clinic until a new clinic was built on the future Campus site. Discussion was held and ideas were shared.

Mr. Walls asked if we currently have inside storage available to store the vehicle. Mrs. Swearingen said no.

Mr. Walls stated with the new campus being built and the health department being part of that, he would not be in favor of the purchase of this vehicle at this time. He said we don't know what the new clinic is going to consist of; we have seen the designs and they can be modified if a drive-thru clinic is needed. Discussion was held and questions were addressed.

Mr. West stated his biggest concern is that we would be providing an expansion of public services that are not warranted. He said the Health Department provides vital services to protect the general public from a variety of things. He stated with the number of providers currently available for vaccinations he does not see the need for the Health Department to provide additional vaccination services to the general public. Mr. West said this would be extending the scope of the original intent for the Health Department. Discussion continued with ideas and concerns being shared.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve, but not exceed \$160,000 for the purchase of a trailer for the Health Department. Mr. Deer seconded the motion; the motion failed with a vote of 3-3; Mr. West, Mr. Baird, and Mr. Walls voted no; Mr. Henderson, Mr. Deer, and Mr. Myers voted yes.

Consideration of Funding for Crisis Intervention Team

Mr. Deer asked the Committee to consider funding for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). He stated this is a qualified regulatory expenditure. He further stated the CIT mission is to promote the intersection of public safety, and mental health, as well as personal and community wellness. CIT provides real-time or follow-up assistance to individuals in crisis by facilitating assessments, triage, and connecting people with appropriate services. Mr. Deer said Mental Health refers to one's emotional, psychological, and social well-being. According to the National Alliance of Mental Illness, a mental health condition affects a person's thinking, feeling or mood. He said a crisis can be the result of a number of underlying issues including but not limited to prior diagnosis, food insecurity, housing challenges, drug abuse, family violence and many other influencers. CIT will assess and connect adult and juveniles to resources that may be needed in order for them to remain out of the criminal justice system. Mr. Deer continued to speak of different Community Violence Intervention Programs.

Andy Barnhart, Sheriff's Department, approached the podium and stated ARPA Funding will be one portion of what is needed for the overall CIT program. He said the CIT program will need multi funding avenues such as budget and grants, noting ARPA Funds are only one part of the overall approach. Discussion was held and questions were addressed and suggestions were given.

Mr. Myers stated there is a great need for the CIT program; noting initial assessment during a crisis is important. He said this is one piece to the puzzle. Mr. Myers stated that crisis problems are happening now, and he would like to see the committee move forward with \$300,000 that had been mentioned in a prior meeting.

The Committee offered suggestion and ideas for Mental Health Assessment and Care. It was requested the CIT come back at a future meeting with dollar amounts involving salaries and specific needs. The Committee also asked that other departments who currently have crisis intervention needs be involved in these conversations.

Mrs. Johnson stated the CIT project is primarily Regulatory Funds.

Mr. Baird made a motion to appropriate up to \$500,000 over the next twenty-four (24) months to the CIT Program in order to move forward with funds as a kick start to the program. He noted additional funds are needed for this program and will be obtained through sources other than ARPA Funds. Mr. Deer seconded the motion. Mr. West requested further discussion prior to a vote.

Mr. West stated he supports the CIT and what they are doing. He said he thought it had been decided early on that ARPA Funds would not be used for any program with ongoing expenditures. Mr. West said he understands the CIT can have a major impact on incarceration numbers; noting their efforts could create a distinct savings within the Judicial System. Mr. West stated he would rather see local dollars used as a funding source for CIT and not use ARPA Funds. He recommended funding for CIT come through Council.

Mr. Barnhart along with Angela Morris, Adult Probation, came to the podium for further discussion.

Mr. Baird stated he would like to amend his prior motion; he asked Mr. Henderson to please explain his position on the CIT.

Mr. Henderson stated he would like to see the ARPA Funds be used as further enhancement of the CIT Program. He said the CIT is currently building around this program and he would like to use regulatory ARPA FUNDS to help with the expense. Mr. Henderson said the deadline to obligate ARPA Funds is December 31, 2024 and the funds must be fully expended by year end 2026. He stated he would like to acknowledge the earlier plea of Lori Myers, Juvenile Detention, for the youth to be considered in the CIT discussions. He said the funds should be spread over time until the CIT plans are more formalized. Mr. Henderson suggested a limit of \$100,000 per fiscal year throughout the remaining term of the ARPA Funds. He said the Committee needs to receive feedback on how the Juvenile Youth Program will be incorporated within the aspect of the CIT; noting this course would address a larger part of our community.

Mr. Myers stated he appreciated Mr. Henderson's comments but he does not believe it will be enough.

Mr. Henderson stated he did not agree with Mr. Myers and thinks \$100,000 would definitely help. Discussion was held regarding the CIT Program and questions were addressed.

Mr. Baird amended his original motion; stating he would like to initially pledge \$200,000 from ARPA Funds to the CIT Program followed by two (2) years at \$150,000 each year with acceptable justification. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. West expressed concerns for the motion and conversation was held.

Mrs. Johnson stated a Council Ordinance would be done giving details of the expenditures prior to ARPA Funds being disbursed to the CIT.

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

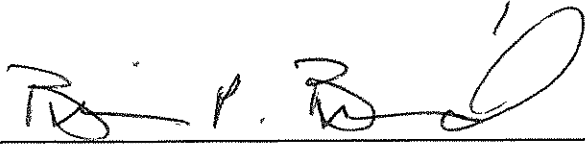
Mrs. Johnson stated there is a standing instruction that everyone could send their ideas and or concerns to Mrs. Johnson; the Agenda would then be determined by Mr. Baird for the next meeting.

Mr. Baird stated the next Commissioners/Council Joint ARPA Meeting would be Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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AJOURNMENT

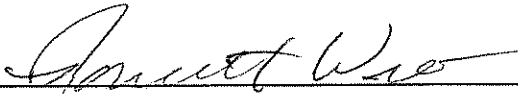
There being no further business, Mr. West moved to adjourn. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.



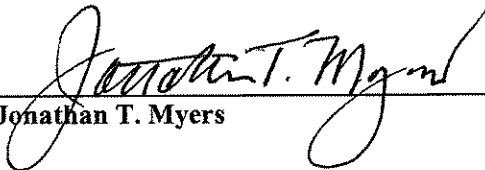
Brian Baird



Kevin Walls



Ron West



Jonathan T. Myers

Rob Henderson



Ron Deer

Attest:

Pamela J. Burton
Auditor