

**Porter County American Rescue Plan  
Sub Committee Non Profits & Employers  
Monday, May 2, 2022, 5 p.m.  
Commissioners' Meeting Room Chambers  
Porter County Administration Center 155 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso IN 46383**

**Members Present:**

Jim Biggs  
Mike Brickner  
Erik Wagner  
Ruth Vance  
Rebecca Tomerlin

Jim Biggs opened the meeting and advised tonight the committee will hear four applications.

Ruth Vance suggested corrections to the April 18, 2022 minutes:

She does not feel there should be a designation between members and citizen members.

Page 2 – Coffee Creek – Water Shed – It is really Loss Revenues. Page 2 – Center for “Workforce should be Center for “Innovation”.

Page 3 – MAAC Page 4 – MAAC Page 4 change the word “moved on” to “advanced”.

**Motion:** Rebecca Tomerlin moved to approve the minutes with the suggested changes. from the April 18, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Mike Brickner and so approved with a 5-0 vote.

**Presentations:**

Each organization has 15 minutes for their presentation. There will be 15 minutes for Q & A after the presentation.

**Community Theater Guild**

Lisa Formosa-Parmigiano presented. They have been in business for 67 years and want to continue. They were shuttered from March of 2020 until Aril of 2021. When they opened, they could only seat to 1/3 of their capacity. This year they were shuttered for another month and one-half. They have education programs. They did the programs on line with ZOOM. When they held camps they could only be at 50% capacity with masks. They took out two Payroll Protection Program loans. In 2020 one for \$14,600 and in 2021 one for \$14,662. Both have been forgiven. The arts are a fundamental of a healthy community. The arts help students. They draw tourism.

Q – How would you spend the money?

A - In the last two years they lost the boiler, and had roof damage. They lost gutters in an ice storm. They covered these expenses with their reserve funds. They would use the funds to compensate for over \$90,000 lost income which covers 95% of their activity. They are hoping to be able to afford 1-2 new part time employees.

Q – Have you received any other Federal assistance?

A – Two PPP Loans – \$14,600 and \$14,662. They also got \$3,000 from Partners of Midwest. This is not Federal money.

Q – Would you accept less?

A – Yes. Anything would be a help.

## **Dressed for School**

Lisa Houser presented. Dressed for School opened in 2019. They provide clothing to school children in need or in crisis. Research shows that children who wear clean, well-fitting clothes to school perform better academically. The students who qualify get to shop in fall and spring. They get four tops, 4 bottoms, 5 underwear, 5 socks and 1 pair of new gym shoes each trip. They are set up in the former Hayes Leonard School. The students come to the shop by bus or private appointment with a parent. The students are paired with a personal shopper who makes sure the clothes fit properly. In 2020 they were anticipating expanding to other parts of the County when covid hit. They took orders and parents would use a drive through to get the clothing. In the summer of 2020, they had to close down the shop because of covid. They developed a mold issue. Everything had to be removed and the building cleaned. They lost quite a bit of the clothing. They had to purchase two dehumidifiers. In February of 2021 they moved back into the school.

Q – at the time the air conditioning was shut off, did that have anything to do with the pandemic.

A – Yes. They had to close the building because of covid. No one was monitoring the building.

Q – Where do you receive your clothing.

A – Funding comes from grants. There is no payroll because everyone is volunteer. They accept donations and new clothing with tags attached. They do a clothing drive twice a year.

Q – Can you quantify the dollar amount you lost.

A – It is hard to estimate. Probably 35-45 pair of pants and jeans.

Q – What is your request.

A - \$10,000. Our biggest loss was shoes. Those cost about \$25 per pair. We lost about 10 pair. The cleaning, spraying and purchases of dehumidifiers was a cost at probably \$2,000. The other \$8,000 they are requesting is for new clothing for the store. They have seen an up tick since the pandemic. In 2019 their donations were \$150,000. In 2020 the donation amount was \$60,000.

Q – How many students do you serve.

A – We help approximately 450-500 students. Most are from Portage and Valparaiso.

Q – Have you received any Federal funds. No PPP Loans. Valparaiso has pledged \$25,000. This will be used for clothing and shoes.

Q – The negative impact is mold, loss of donations and increased need from the community?

A – Yes. It is hard to see how many more we will be helping this year.

Q – They received \$25,000 from the City of Valparaiso. What did you say the money was for?

A – She believes it is for clothing and shoes.

## **Opportunity Enterprises**

Neil Samahon presented. Their first request is an investment in their operations. The second is a capital investment. They have been serving the community for over 55 years. Many of their services are essential. During the pandemic they were not able to temporarily shut down or pause services even if the outbreaks were significant. The long-standing shortcomings left them vulnerable. OE continues to fundraise. They have applied for and received State and Federal support. They are still receiving a decrease in revenue. Yet there are increased staffing expenses. Rates are determined by the State Medicaid waiver program. They do not have pricing power. They have created new divisions with different business models that will help diversify OE's funding streams, allowing them to increase their sustainability. OE employees 360 people. This puts over \$12 Million Dollars into the local economy. They are asking for a \$1.5 Million Dollar donation in operations as an investment in their future. Funds will be used to offset a net loss in service revenue of just over \$500,000 and then invest \$1 Million Dollars in sustainable programming that was developed in direct response to the post covid environment. This request for \$1.5 Million Dollars will be used to replace lost revenue, invest in innovative programming that was developed in response to covid. These costs would be incurred in 2021 and project through 2024.

The second part of their request is for a transformational respite care center. This design is for 4 hours of care up to 2 weeks. In Indiana funding for an individual to assist them in moving out on their own unless there are certain circumstances, isn't available until the primary care giver is 80 years old. These care givers need a break. It is essential for their mental health and wellbeing. The problem with this is that the respite care centers are packed. OE is going to build a new respite care center on Lake Eliza. Unfortunately what was planned to be a \$5.9 Million dollar project is now \$6.7 due to rising costs. They are asking for \$1 Million Dollars to assist in raising the capital for this project. They have many outdoor projects they will keep working on. One is a tree house.

Q – How is the money allocated?

A - \$1 Million for the Respite. \$1.5 is for loss revenue and increased costs.

Q – So you are asking for \$2.5 million?

A – Yes

Q – How far along are you with those projects?

A – Each one is underway. They can meet the deadlines.

Q – Have you received any other Federal, State or City funding?

A – (Mark Fisher answered) We received funding from the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

Q – Are they government agencies.

A – yes. As we also received a PPP Loan that was totally forgiven.

Q -What amount?

A – PPP Loan for \$2,424,400. This was a loan and it was forgiven. \$654,477 to go towards some increased costs.

Q – If you were offered less would you take it?

Y – Yes

### **The MAAC Foundation**

Selena Weatherwax presented. Their request is \$3.3 Million Dollars. They have matching funds. Their facility brings in people and supports the hotels and restaurants. They saw the need for this type of facility with the pandemic. Their revenue generating was hurt. Clients have 24/7 access to the facility. The first responders get training at no cost to them or their organization. Their next project is a residential tactical village. It will be called Bedford Falls Street USA. They will be able to meet all the deadlines. They have partnered with the Porter County Technical Career Center. Students get 15 credit hours for IVY Tech and firefighter certification.

Q – If you were offered less would you take it?

A – Yes

C – The first responders were not able to stay home. If up to him, he would give MAAC their full request.

C – First responders are the most visible and their training is essential.

Q – They will have the funds committed. They will have \$3.3 Million matching funds. They have been working on this project for 8 months.

A – They have been pledged \$50,000 from the City of Valparaiso. This will go towards infrastructure. It will be in-kind sewer and water.

Q – Have you received any other funds?

A – Yes. PPP loan for \$14,000. This has been forgiven.

### **Public Comment**

None

There being no one else wishing to address the Committee, Jim Biggs declared the Public Comment section closed.

The meeting adjourned.