

**Porter County American Rescue Plan
Steering Committee
Tuesday, June 23, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Commissioners' Meeting Room Chambers
Porter County Administration Center 155 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso IN 46383**

Members Present:

Jeremy Rivas
Laura Blaney
Andy Bozak
Vicki Urbanik – Non voting
Scott McClure – Non voting

Vicki Urbanik called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022 and June 16, 2022 meetings. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

US Treasury's Latest Compliance and Reporting Guidance

Vicki Urbanik stated Porter County is a Tier II County. Therefore, we are required to turn in quarterly project and expenditure reports. US Treasury has issued an update. She has one new item that she wants to bring up tonight. There will have to be a written explanation prepared to attach to the report for certain capital expenditures as well as an explanation of the presence of various labor procedures. Right now the latter requirement only applies to projects that are over \$10 Million. Vicki does not think this will affect any proposed Porter County projects but said it's important to note that the federal government places a priority on best labor practices. The County has a Responsible Bidders Ordinance.

Discussion and Evaluation of Subcommittee Scores

Infrastructure - \$7,174,513

Laura Blaney stated last week the subcommittee's cutoff was really clear. She proposed to move all of the requests forward as discussed last week.

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to move all of the Infrastructure requests forward at \$7,174,513. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

County Covid Response – \$2,926,246

Laura Blaney stated last week the decision was to move forward everything except the EMA tent request.

She has talked to staff and they are comfortable with taking the Civic HR out of the Commissioner's request. Laura also said there was discussion and they felt the County Health Insurance Fund should be cut to \$500,000. This amount has to match up with claims received due to COVID.

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to approve the County Covid Response requests at \$2,926,246. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

Behavioral Health - \$3,480,000

Laura Blaney stated behavioral health is a big issue presently in Porter County. She does not want to make any changes to those requests that were above the median and approved last week. They did discuss bringing up Woman's Association, Caring Place and Family Promises. She suggested Woman's Association at \$60,000, Caring Place at \$250,000 and Family Promises at \$50,000. Jim Biggs said he understands keeping the Woman's Association at \$80,000. Jeremy Rivas stated he noticed the original request from the Woman's Association was for \$490,000. They were cut to \$80,000. Jim Biggs replied each presenter was asked if they would accept less and all said yes.

Jeremy Rivas said at the beginning of this meeting they still needed to cut \$4 Million from the requests. Jim Biggs suggested nothing over \$1 Million be approved. Andy Bozak suggested that there are some projects over \$1 Million that should not be touched for reduction.

Motion: Jeremy Rivas moved to approve the Behavioral Health requests at \$3,480,000. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

Nonprofits & Employers - \$5,518,625

Andy Bozak suggested all requests be lowered to a maximum of \$1 Million. The VNA request was discussed. They are asking for \$350,000 for purchase of a van and site building acquisition in Hebron for Meals on Wheels.

They would also use \$150,000 of the funds for a director position. Opportunity Enterprises was a combination of revenue loss and new capital project. MAAC was new construction. Shirley Heinz was new construction. Hilltop is expansion of child care facility. Coffee Creek Watershed is revenue loss. Community Theater Guild is revenue loss. Boys and Girls club is a capital expenditure project. NEO is new construction. Kids Fund Corp is revenue loss. Coffee Creek Boardwalk is repair work. Jim Biggs suggested that the VNA request not be touched and that all requests be max at \$750,000. This would apply to all requests in all of the subcommittees.

Jeremy Rivas suggested cutting the four \$1 Million Dollar requests to \$945,000 in the Nonprofits and Employers.

Motion: Laura Blaney moved to approve the Nonprofits & Employers requests at \$5,518,625. Andy Bozak seconded the motion and so approved.

Vicki Urbanik will put together a presentation for the Commissioners. Their next meeting is July 12, 2022. Vicki will do the presentation. After the Commissioners it will go to the Council. Attorney McClure advised there are a lot of projects that are under the gun now to meet deadlines. Vicki said they will need a written agreement with every project.

Public Comment

Gary Brown – He stated they are trying to satisfy all and got none. There was favoritism. They should have done more homework. They made it as transparent as they could. But there is still a lot they should have done. There were a lot of things that he was not allowed to bring up at meetings. There are a lot of bogus items in this report.

Jim Biggs stated he respects Gary's opinion but he did not see one rotten apple in the group. Some of the requests were thrown out if they did not meet requirements. This is the least amount of politics he has ever seen in a project.

It was pointed out that there was public comment at the end of every meeting of every committee.

There being no more business the meeting adjourned.

Laura Blaney, Porter County Commissioner
Andy Bozak, Porter County Council
Jeremy Rivas, Porter County Council

Attest:

Vicki Urbanik, Porter County Auditor