

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

Pursuant to law, the Board of Commissioners called a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioner's Room and were called to order by the Chairperson.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

PRESENT: Margaret Batzer, Karen Goodman, Eric Gustad, Pauline Jaquish, Nikki Koons and Richard Schmidt.

ABSENT: Jeff Dontz (on Zoom)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Miller, Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce, Director of Economic Development spoke regarding the disbursements of ARPA Funds.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

ACT FUNDS (ARPA) AND ALLOWABLE USES OF THE FUNDS

Lisa Sagala, County Administrator/Controller, discussed that ARPA funds has to be allocated/earmarked by 2024 and physically spent by 2026. The final rule allows counties to use up to \$10 million of ARPA Funds as lost revenue. Manistee County is receiving \$4.7 million and therefore the whole amount can be used as loss revenue which makes reporting purposes easier. Susan Zielinski, Finance Officer, noted that the funds will be in a separate account and will still be audited by county auditors. There is no reason not to use the funds as loss revenue as it gives more flexibility. Almost 100% of the counties who are receiving funds under \$10 million are claiming it as loss revenue.

Manistee County has already received the first distribution of half of the money \$2,351,044. Funds of \$34,804 have been spent on county technology already. Ms. Sagala reviewed eligible and ineligible expenses and possible numerous projects and expenditures, as well as the handout "Overview of U.S. Treasury Final Rule for ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund". The Board also discussed how entities could request funds. There will be an application process where the applicant will give an organizational overview, define their need and the impact of the project and impact to the community, and cost and sustainability. The Board will prioritize and score the requests, the entities will then be asked to present before the County Board. Amendments to the applications may be possible. Networks Northwest may possibly be able to help with the scoring.

Once the County pays out the funds, the County has complied with the final rule. However, there could be an internal process for follow up. BS&A is adding a grant tracking module to its software. Ms. Sagala will send a link to Board Members on how other local governments are using their ARPA Funds and sorting capabilities.

Ms. Sagala will contact Scott Fraley at the Manistee News Advocate to do an article in the paper on ARPA funds and explain the application process. The County Facebook page and website will also be used. Applications are to be postmarked by April 1, 2022. Discussion as to not immediately earmark all of the funds was had. The County could set two (2) application cycles, one (1) in 2022 and one (1) in 2023.

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SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

A Special meeting in May could be had with approvals in June. Information on dates will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jill Nowak, County Clerk spoke in regard to entities living within their budgets instead of continuing to ask for more funds.

Adjourn at the Call of the Chair at 2:17 p.m.

_____, Clerk
Jill M. Nowak

DRAFT