

St. Clair County Board of Commissioners Workshop

Board of Commissioners' Room

County Administrative Office Building, 2nd Floor

200 Grand River Avenue

Port Huron, MI 48060

January 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call/Opening/Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Bohm at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Simasko, Baldwin, Beedon, Torello, Rushing, Vandenbossche,

Bohm – Present

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Baldwin, supported by Commissioner Rushing, to
approve the agenda as presented. Passed by a voice vote.

3. Citizens to be Heard

None

4. New Business

A. American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA)

Administrator/Controller Hepting gave an update on the American Rescue Plan Act which includes the final rule and what the County has done to date and what the process the Board has done to date.

Administrator/Controller Hepting discussed total funds received in St. Clair County of \$62,478,855, with a breakdown of funds received per district.

Important to note that all local units of government were eligible to receive their own funds. Each local unit had to apply for these funds.

Administrator/Controller Hepting discussed eligible uses for the ARPA fund as defined by the US Department of Treasury, which include support public health response, address negative economic impacts, replace public sector revenue loss, premium pay for essential workers, water and sewer infrastructure, and broadband infrastructure.

Administrator/Controller Hepting discussed the formula used to calculate lost revenue. The County has two options under the final rule of how to calculate lost revenue. It can be calculated through the Treasury formula or allocate up to \$10 million of Recovery Fund allocation to spend on government services. It is advantageous for the County to use the Treasury formula so the County has elected to do that calculation each year. The total revenue loss for 2020 and 2021 is 8.1 million.

Administrator/Controller Hepting discussed the activities that were not eligible to use on a county's revenue loss allowance which include extraordinary contribution to a pension fund, debt service payment, rainy day or reserve account, settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree or judicially confirmed debt, activity that conflicts with the purpose of ARPA statute, violations of award terms and condition.

Administrator/Controller Hepting discussed the process to date and the balance of 23.3 million unallocated funds.

Handouts were given for the American Rescue Plan Act Report to Board of Commissioners on ARPA spending as of December 31, 2022 and the Capital Improvement Program – Proposed Expenditures Summary.

Commissioners spoke in regards to where they would like to see the ARPA funds spent.

Commissioner Bohm spoke on infrastructure, water and sewer improvements for 26 Mile Road Corridor and site readiness.

Commissioner Vandenbossche spoke on waste water treatment.

Commissioner Rushing spoke in regards to a treatment plant in Ira Township and water and sewer improvements.

Commissioner Simasko spoke on county operation/ local control. He would like to take care of business in County first.

Commissioner Baldwin spoke about prioritizing needs within the County and then the return on investment. She is up for potentially putting money out if it will bring money back to fund services.

Commissioner Beedon spoke about a prioritized list from Administration about internally what their hot buttons are and then look at projects that can get that return on investment for the tax base.

Dan Casey, CEO, EDA of St. Clair County was present and discussed the importance of site readiness in St. Clair County. He discussed the advantages that St. Clair County have which is close proximity to Metro Detroit, we have I -94, and I -69 which is international freight corridor, we have the Blue Water Bridge, we are close to 25 automotive assembly plants and we have big blocks of land, which in most places like Macomb, Oakland, Wayne or Washtenaw counties that is not available.

Justin Robinson, SVP, Business Development at Detroit Regional Partnership joined by phone. Mr. Robinson discussed the importance of site readiness for developmental growth within St. Clair County.

Discussion followed.

B. 26 Mile Corridor Study Presentation

Adam Young, Project Manager, from Wade Trim gave an overview and key recommendations in regards to the Corridor Study for the Marine City Highway. Handouts were given.

The following key points were discussed:

- 1) Planning Approach
- 2) Steering Committee Leadership
- 3) Project Components
- 4) Public Engagement Methods
- 5) Land Use & Development Plan
- 6) Corridor Future Land Use Plan
- 7) Transportation plan
- 8) Proposed Road Improvements
- 9) Infrastructure Plan
- 10) Water & Sewer Improvements
- 11) Economic Development Strategy
- 12) Action Strategy

Discussion followed.

C. Future Workshop Schedule

None

5. Other Matters

None

6. Receive and File Packets

Moved by Commissioner Baldwin, supported by Commissioner Rushing, to receive and file packets that were sent to Commissioners, packets at their places and any other information presented. Passed by a voice vote.

7. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Beedon, supported by Commissioner Vandenbossche, to adjourn at 5:52 p.m. Passed by a voice vote.