

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee

Date: May 26, 2021
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Members Present: Commissioners Terry McCarthy, Matthew Plache, Kim Tessari; Representatives Lino Avellani, Tom Buco, William Marsh (remote); Director of Maintenance Bob Murray; and Director of Public Works Will DeWitte (remote)
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, Ed Comeau (www.governmentoversite.com)

Discussion

Dir. DeWitte: Water tank is high priority. Water System Study RFP has been issued with responses due June 10. Water pipes that run from Courthouse Square to NH DOT shed on Old Route 28 is only 4" main. Replacement of meters and addition of meters on all County buildings. All fire hydrants need to be replaced, parts difficult to procure. Estimated that 10 hydrants \$3000-\$4000 each. The Study may recommend other projects. Overlay of water system is stored at Registry of Deeds, on Dir DeWitte computer. Requested to provide copies to the Committee members.

Dir. Murray: Suggests administration building needs ventilation improvements; not part of Siemens project because they were still functional though 15 years old. MVC Annex ventilation is circa 1968 and need of major upgrade.

Comm'r Plache: Opening up the Annex could bring a lot of office space to do programs that are eligible, i.e., domestic violence serves. Past discussion about child care center. Employees here would appreciate onsite daycare.

Dir. Murray: A lot of people were affected by lack of childcare during Covid

Comm'r Plache: A community-use broadband center.

Dir. Murray: Annex supports functions of the nursing home — laundry, etc

Comm'r Tessari: Question about replacing generators

Dir. Murray: Generator that services the water/sewer plant is 1970s-era

Rep. Buco: Guidelines are very broad

Comm'r Tessari: Creating green infrastructure.

Discussion about amendment to State law increasing amount of electricity municipalities can sell back from 1MW to 5MW expected to be signed by the Governor in July

Dir Murray: Annex will need plumbing and electrical work. Building has solid bones, asbestos in floor tile, functioning sprinkler and alarm systems.

Rep. Marsh: Noted general infrastructure improvements not allowed according to FAQ he has read (attached)

Comm'r Plache: Childcare, domestic violence, broadband, ventilation specifically authorized in the guidance. A lot of needs in the community we can address with these funds. People doubling, tripling up in office space in Administration Building.

Rep. Avellani: Consider the future budgetary impacts that improvements will cause such as increase in utility costs. Suggests sending in comments on the interim rules to request expansion of permitted infrastructure improvements.

Comm'r Plache: Timeline from interim rules:

Comm'r Plache: Nursing home staff worked really hard and additional compensation is allowable use of funds.

Comm'r McCarthy: Changed her opinion. The County is a service not a for-profit business. We are here to provide services to Carroll County. In two years I might have gotten four calls about the County budget. The general population does not worry too much about the County.

Comm'r Plache: We have a problem in the county with domestic violence, lack of childcare, drug abuse

Comm'r Tessari: Personal experience with lack of access to childcare. Knows others who have similar experience. Providing childcare has a direct connection to the pandemic, especially if trying to encourage people to re-enter the workforce.

Comm'r Plache: Being able to offer onsite childcare would help with County employee retention

Comm'r McCarthy: The County should not be in charge of providing childcare. Agreeable to leasing to a childcare provider

Rep. Avellani: Question remediation necessary in Annex for a childcare center.

Dir. Murray: Estimate \$50,000 for asbestos remediation (floor tiles, under stainless sinks, fluorescent light ballasts); no lead paint

Comm'r Tessari: Other allowable uses include food assistance, could renovated Annex dining room be available for community suppers; training for County staff

Comm'r Plache: Reporting requirement:

July 9, 2021	Deadline to submit comments on US Treasury's Interim Final Rule
August 31, 2021	Deadline for counties to submit first Interim Report to US Treasury
October 31, 2021	Deadline for counties to submit first Quarterly Project and Expenditure Report
December 31, 2024	Funds must be incurred and obligated
December 31, 2026	Funds must be expended to cover obligations and all work must be completed

Dir. Murray: Changed chemicals used for cleaning. Dispatch took responsibility for disinfecting their space. MVC added a housekeeping position due to Covid

Comm'r Plache: Jail inspection a few weeks ago, clean building with inmate assistance

Rep. Buco: Categories so broad we should put in everything we need to do

Comm'r Tessari: Could setting up central purchasing be funded with these monies

Dir. Murray: Would require hiring additional staff, renovating space

Rep. Avellani: Improvements to data and technology infrastructure allowable. Would centralized purchasing qualify?

Comm'r Plache: A lot of experience working with grant programs. It is not unexpected to find ways to fit within what you can do. The guidance is enabling, not limited.

Comm'r Tessari: We are at maximum capacity in the Administration Building. We can only sustain that so long

Rep. Avellani: Construction of assisted living facility and moving maintenance, offices there.

Dir. Murray: Would lobby for a lower-level for a more suitable storage facility, maintenance area and laundry.

Rep. Avellani: Can administrative offices be part of that?

Dir. Murray: We have employees doubled up in offices at MVC so expansion should only include MVC. Mixed-use would have to be segregated. Possibly two-story with basement.

Comm'r McCarthy: Keeping separate is important. If another pandemic, the County administration would not have access to the nursing home.

Comm'r Plache: To fill a long-range need, assisted living makes sense

Comm'r Tessari: Rural area results in increased domestic violence. If the Delegation is going to give departments the manpower they need, they also have to be willing to give them a place to sit and work.

Rep. Avellani: Renovating the Annex is not a long-term solution

Comm'r McCarthy: Why make the investment if only temporary.

Comm'r Tessari: Does the Annex have a shelf life?

Dir. Murray: Needs windows, doors, roof work, plumbing, electrical; bones are good. Remodeling far less costly than new construction. Oddly shaped building, built for specific purpose. Underground piping between Annex and MVC. Storage could be consolidated to free up space in the Annex.

Rep. Marsh: Not sure assisted living fits within allowable uses

Comm'r Tessari: Housing for groups in need, assisted living facility addresses need of vulnerable population

Rep. Avellani: Cybersecurity modernization including hardware, software, critical infrastructure. Is registry of deeds considered critical.

Comm'r Tessari: Register Scott has proposed potential use of funds for her department
 Dir. Murray: Stipend pay for administration building maintenance worker allowable use of funds
 Comm'r Tessari: Using funds to retain nursing staff, critical shortage
 Rep. Bucu: Two priorities — one to mitigate covid-19 response and invest for the future.
 Rep. Avellani: Delegation needs to be involved with approving the larger expenditures at the next meeting. Are we allowed to spend funds prior to August 31?
 Comm'r McCarthy: Has signed off to accept the first disbursement of funds
 Comm'r Tessari: Suggests sending out a notice to all department heads for needs they have
 Rep. Avellani: The comments from department heads could be used to draft letter to US Treasury regarding interim rules.
 Adjourned 4:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2021 at 3:00pm

Follow-up

Water system overlay	W DeWitte
Hydrants Quote	W DeWitte
List of water system projects	W DeWitte
Priority list of needs for complex	B Murray
Research recouping increased cost of cleaning products	B Murray
Invite MVC Administrator to June 9 meeting	M Seamans

