

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
6:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held a special meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, via Zoom and in-person. In attendance were:

Board: Laura Dininni- Chair
Lisa Strickland – Vice Chair
Patricia Stephens
Pam Steckler
Steve Miller

Staff: David Pribulka, Township Manager
Centrice Martin, Assistant Manager
Eric Endresen, Finance Director
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Wes Glebe; David Stone; Mark Kunkle;

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Pribulka introduced the Zoom engagement etiquette and rules.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

David Stone of State College Borough suggested that the Township pass a resolution supporting a single payer "Medicare for all" legislation that is currently pending in Congress.

IV. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING DISCUSSION

Mr. Pribulka introduced the topic and reviewed a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act Funding. He reviewed the background of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the allocation made to the Township. The Manager reviewed eligible expenses, a summary of Centre County programs funded through ARPA, and notes from the July worksession. Ms. Martin presented on the results of the business needs survey that was recently issued, and the pending Flexibility Act. Finally, staff presented a series of recommendations for consideration by the Board.

Board discussion followed and focused on transportation mobility study improvements; county funding opportunities and investments; and stormwater management. Ms. Strickland asked whether workforce housing fee-in-lieu could be used to provide rental assistance to qualified individuals and families. Ms. Strickland suggested increasing the Park Hills Drainageway project to \$600,000. She also suggested reducing the \$500,000 to \$300,000 for mobility study improvements. She offered suggestions to reduce the assistance to residents and businesses, as well., to help free up funding for other candidate projects such as the Park Hills Drainageway.

Ms. Dininni noted that there are areas in the Township that have gaps in sidewalks. She suggested that we identify gaps in sidewalk construction and share costs with the property owners to install them. Mr. Miller noted that he is in agreement with staff recommendations

and would like to see the Park Hills Drainageway project be complete before cost containment becomes a further problem. Ms. Stephens suggested reducing amounts to tourism funding and human services by half (\$25,000), and decrease rental assistance to \$0. Ms. Dininni responded that she would support reducing it by half or a quarter but not eliminating entirely. Potential recipients of funding for human services assistance could be Out of the Cold, Meals on Wheels, Centre Safe, and the Food Bank.

Mark Kunkle asked whether the revenue loss is formulaic or is what had actually been realized by the Township. He also inquired about whether the mobility study projects are identified on the Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Kunkle noted that the projects proposed for design and permitting in the mobility studies should be pursued if they are eligible to be used as local match for state and federal grant assistance to complete their construction. This is due to the shelf life of design and PennDOT permitting. Mr. Kunkle noted that sidewalk assessments in residential subdivisions is a worthwhile initiative.

Mr. Stone noted that a placeholder could be used to leverage public health services in the manner that State College Borough did to establish an Act 315 Health Department.

Ms. Dininni suggested adjustments include reducing the rental housing assistance to \$50,000; tourism funding to \$40,000; and human services to \$40,000. The Park Hills Drainageway funding would be increased to \$300,000 and each mobility study would be increased to \$260,000 per. Ms. Strickland proposed further reducing the rental assistance. She also suggested investing in the sidewalk gap analysis and construction. Ms. Stephens suggested all reductions should be invested in the Park Hills Drainageway project.

The final changes to be reflected in the budget will show \$250,000 additional in the sinking fund for the Northland Area Transportation Mobility Study; \$300,000 in the Pine Grove Mills Transportation Mobility Study sinking fund; \$50,000 for main meeting AV upgrades; \$40,000 in tourism assistance; \$20,000 in rental assistance; \$20,000 in human services agencies assistance; \$320,000 in Park Hills Drainageway improvements; and the remainder to remain uncommitted at this time.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stephens moved to adjourn. Ms. Steckler seconded the motion. The Board adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Pribulka, Township Manager

For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board:

