

**American Rescue Plan Act
Special Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: April 27, 2022 – 5:00
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing: 1-646-558-8656,
Meeting ID: 878 4538 5640
PRESIDING OFFICER: Peter Criswell, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Thomas Corcoran, Jr. (arrived at 5:30 PM),
Aaron J. Levine, Craig V. Lopez, and Megan Sperry; and
Legislative Chair Tracey Bartels
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Phil Erner, Manna Jo Greene, Chris Hewitt;
Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly; Comptroller March
Gallagher; Alicia DeMarco, Office of the Comptroller; ARP
Administration Nathan Litwin, and Molly Scott

- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM**

Chairman Criswell welcomed all to the meeting. Deputy Clerk Feaster took role.

See attached transcript.

**Motion No. 1: To approve the minutes and transcripts of the March 30, 2022 and April 13, 2022
Regular Meetings**

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

See attached transcript.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Chairman Criswell asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 6:59 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster

Minutes Approved: June 1, 2022

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- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM**
-

Chairman Criswell: So, we'll call this meeting to order. This is the April 27th meeting of the American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee. It is 5:02. And could you please call the role?

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Criswell.

Chairman Criswell: Here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Corcoran. Levine.

Legislator Levine: Here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Lopez.

Legislator Lopez: Here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: Here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Here.

Chairman Criswell: All right, thank you very much. And we'll see when Legislator Corcoran can join us. I wanted to start the meeting with a huge thank you to all the committee members. We were given a monumental task. And it was basically like drinking from a firehose. And I really think that we've done a great job of understanding the mission and vision of this committee, and then really creating a very good matrix to look at all these different projects against, and then spending a lot of time thinking about them and scoring them. And we did a tremendous amount of work in the past couple months. You know, felt, former legislators who have been here before, know that this was a lot of work in just a short time. So, I just want to say thank you and I really appreciate your attention to the work. And I want to send out a huge thank you to Amber. Amber has been an amazing clerk for us. And she has tirelessly, tirelessly put together every sort of report I've asked of her and gone above and beyond and produced new reports. And Amber, you have been amazing to work with. And I really, really appreciate all your efforts. So, thank you so much for that.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: You're quite welcome. Today's meeting is going to be different from previous meetings in that we're going to take a little breather today. We do not have any presentations from anybody looking for funding. And so, what we're going to do today is take a little bit of a pause, little bit of a breath, and we're going to try and better understand where we're at right now with the finances, we are going to look at where our money has been committed so far. And we'll talk about how we feel about that distribution. And we're going to also look at it compared with other municipalities and see how that plays into our future thinking. And then we're also going to look at our priorities and where we're at in terms of what we had designated as our priorities with what we've actually spent and what pot of money we have left. And then that will kind of help us figure out what's, what's next down the pike. That sound good with everybody? Great. All right. So, I think what I like to do is, first of all, talk a little bit about reporting. So, the, correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe it's quarterly reports that the county has to send to the federal government, and there is a quarterly report that's due April 30th and it has not been submitted yet, but it should be submitted soon. And, Comptroller, do you want to tell to us anything about that?

Comptroller Gallagher: No, I look forward to getting a copy. I mean, I think the ARPA team is putting that together, and I look forward to seeing it.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Okay. So yeah, what we've been doing is we've been doing a little bit of tracking with, you know, basically we've gotten the money in, and we are submitting invoices for what we've spent, basically showing that we spent down this money. And so, it'll be interesting to see when that happens. Does anybody on the ARPA team want to talk about that process and kind of where we're at with it?

Director of Resilience Litwin: Legislator Criswell, thank you. I'd be glad to talk about it. Comptroller Gallagher. I, so, yes. quarterly reports. They're called expenditure reports. They're required by US Treasury. Our draft is completed. It is waiting to be signed. There is a resolution, so the guidance is clear. We will comply in every way with the resolution. We have 10 days. I

think after the due date or after the submission date, I have to check that but to provide that and we did that last time, so no problem. We know the rules there, and we're happy to do it. Yeah, I think, I think if, if you want me to go further, I have been talking to Burt and I probably can give you an idea of our numbers, which, you know, we're, we look strictly, you know, based on definitions by the final rule of what obligated is and what expenditures are. So, I think you're gonna see something different than what, what you're probably looking at, as far as what's you know, as far as resolutions, what's been put forward in resolutions. There is a lot and some higher numbers out there as far as funding authority, but those don't necessarily mean that the funding is meets that definition of obligated or expenditure. So, but I'm happy to provide that if needed. Yeah.

Chairman Criswell: Great. And I think that's really going to come into play, when we start looking at, we're starting to get down to, you know, lower numbers, and we're going to want to know, at some point, what's the reality here of what we have to, to spend. And so that will be really helpful, as these quarterly reports are filed. And you know, where we're looking at what we budgeted for something where it's actual, and then, you know, if we've got room to then continue to spend, or do we have to really tighten. So those'll, those'll be what I imagine is our future conversations as, as the spending actually gets recorded. Does that seem right to you as well?

Director of Resilience Litwin: Yeah, I think they will be helpful. And it is, you know, our one, because of where we sit as a county and recipient of ARPA funds, we don't have to do annual reports. This is our one report, which is four times a year. And it's our one major communication tool with the US Treasury. So, it will be helpful in that way. And there's a lot, I just always like to encourage, if people want to know about the reporting and the reporting process, there is a lot of information out there at this point it. It does get tweaked and let's say improved or expanded upon. You know, especially because these are the first initial reports US Treasury, Treasury has put out. Webinars, multiple webinars at this point, they are available on YouTube. There is also, you know, hundreds of pages of guidance. And that said, the reporting tool, isn't that complicated, I think they did a nice job of creating, creating a mechanism that makes things simpler out of a complicated process.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: That's great. Can you remind us of what our final spend-by date is because there is a spend-by date isn't there?

Director of Resilience Litwin: So as far as, it needs to be obligated by the end of 2024, you need to be expended by the end of 2026.

Chairman Criswell: 26. Okay.

Director of Resilience Litwin: Which is, is, you know, obligated, so obligate is the first task and that has a definition. Essentially, I think of it as, as it can be contracts signed, for example. And that's probably the biggest way I think of it, is, particularly when we get into our sub recipients. And so that's the biggest task before the end of 2024. And then expended is another subsequent bigger task.

Chairman Criswell: And that's something that you'll keep us apprised of is in terms of when we've actually obligated the money, right?

Director of Resilience Litwin: So, you're gonna see it in the reports. The reports, break it down. These are all good questions, because I think there's a lot of learning in these processes. Yeah, and so I can send it out, I can even send it out with, you know, when I send out this report, I can maybe provide those definitions. They do break it out by obligated and expenditures. So, you're gonna see those two numbers pretty clearly. We break down projects, they do have a slightly more complicated list of expenditure codes. Probably best though, to see the report when we submit it and then.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Yeah, is there an executive summary or anything like that with this report?

Director of Resilience Litwin: There is. Yeah, so there is a like My Projects page, I guess. And at the moment, we have four projects. I'm looking at the draft. And I can, I can just verbally report, you know, there is a, so like, in rows running across So there's four different projects. And we have, we have pods, we have payments for frontline workers, we have administration, and we have the constituent services navigator. That are our four projects currently, because those are the only ones that have been expended upon. And then there's a column for total obligations and total expenditures. And so it should be, it should be real quick.

Chairman Criswell: I guess what I'm asking for if it's not a lot of work is just like a really simple high-level report. Because I just have a feeling that legislators are not going to want to dig into a 30 page with however many pages your report is. So, if there's something that's just like super high level of, you know, what's been expended at this point, I think that would be helpful. It would be helpful for me, and you just want to chime in. If that's something easy for you to do, I don't want you to have to do like triple work or anything.

Director of Resilience Litwin: I think, I think you'll be surprised at how brief the record is.

Chairman Criswell: Okay, great. I'm so used to, I'm so used to grant reporting, where it's multiple pages and complex information that we have to dig through to find our answers. If the report is one that we, can you just look at and understand quickly. I'm fine with that, too.

Director of Resilience Litwin: Yeah, and so there is a like we did this last time and supplied that. So, if you want to look at it before the you know, before we submit there's, there's that available, but it was about five we, we basically were able to, there was a mechanism from the portal to create a PDF and, and that's what we submitted. And it was about five to six pages, if I recall correctly. I don't want to make too much of it. We have spent a long lot of time figuring it out. And we have had a few problems and some questions we've submitted to US Treasury. But I don't want to make it sound more complicated.

Chairman Criswell: That. That sounds great. Molly, did you want to add something to the mix?

Molly Scott: Yeah, I just I wanted to say that the, the report that you get, is it literally, when it's downloaded, it's, it looks exactly like how it does look when we're inputting the information. So, it's not even like it is a sophisticated like report. But I do think when, when we start to report on more projects, it could get a little bit lengthy, Nate, so I don't want to say that, you know, once we start, you know, if it starts to get too long, then we probably could put something together to make it more digestible. But right now, it's literally, there's four things on it.

Chairman Criswell: Okay, great. Well, thank you so much. I appreciate that. Any other comments from the Comptroller or from you, Alicia?

Comptroller Gallagher: I would just like to say our understanding right now is that 1.8 million approximately has been expended. And, you know, among those four projects that they were talking about, so it will be good to see. You know, when we generate reports out of New World, it doesn't simply give it by project right now, the way we're pulling it out. But you know, I think that we will look forward to seeing, you know, how it's being aggregated. And just I think this will be simple, like Molly was saying, and as it grows, it'll become much more interesting. It's not going to be that interesting.

Chairman Criswell: Go ahead, Molly.

Molly Scott: Yeah, and I just wanted to say I've been working with Megan in finance to create like a report based on project. So, when we are, when we generate the reports through New Worlds, it'll be broken down by project. So, it'll be really easy to look at. So, I'm really excited about that.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you. We're looking forward to, to seeing it as well. All right, I'm gonna move us along to the first document, which is the ARPA tracker. And Amber's lovely pie charts. Do we all have this document that we're looking at? Megan, you like the pie chart? It's great, right?

Legislator Sperry: So, I'm a visual person. So, I need to see like, who's getting a big piece of my pie.

Chairman Criswell: Absolutely. When I first saw it, yes. I love the pie chart. It looks really, really great.

Legislator Sperry: Thank you.

Legislator Lopez: All those colors.

Chairman Criswell: Yeah, the colors and everybody has a copy. Right? And everybody can follow along. So. Alright, I think what we should do is just basically go down the list, making sure that we're really clear on what we spent. And Amber, do you want to walk us through this? You want me to walk through it? What do you feel? You want to do it?

Deputy Clerk Feaster: It's totally up to you.

Chairman Criswell: It's your baby. Walk us through this.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: You might want to do it because I feel like I'll have to do the other one.

Chairman Criswell: All right. So, Brownfields, so the allocations right now 750,000. That's pretty clear. The Emergency Management, the COVID PODs \$324,995. The vaccine PODs, okay, so this is where we're going to start to get into some conversation because for some of these, we've allocated the funds for 2022. But there is an intention for future year commitment to these or could be needs for future years. So, I think this is something that as we're looking at what's left in our spending, we also have to think about, well, what do we sort of in theory still want to continue to fund that's beyond 22, or what have we actually said we are definitely going to continue to fund this beyond the, the fiscal year of 22. Does that make sense to everybody? Okay, great. So, so this is one of them. This is the Emergency Management Vaccine PODs. So, Amber if I'm reading this correctly, for 22, we've committed \$538,250. And there's an undefined amount for future year. Correct?

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Correct.

Chairman Criswell: Okay, great. Enterprise West Redevelopment 170,000. The Nonprofit Youth and Community Programs, this is another one that, so we have for this fiscal year, committed 1.5 million. And the, let me just see this here. So, it's a three-year program in the Capital Improvement Program, in the in that budget, right? And so, the total program dollars proposes \$3 million. So, we have not, we didn't allocate \$3 million. For this year, we've allocated 1.5. And so, what has been approved is the 1.5, which is 50%. And then in 23, is proposed a million and then 24, 500,000. So that is going to be one that we're going to have to look at and say, are we okay with committing ARPA funds for those two years out? And so that, that needs to be a discussion amongst this committee. And I think this is where looking at our ARPA priorities is really going to help us, you know. Do we see, I know, I'm just going to get to speak frankly, I know that this one was a bit of a hard one to push through in terms of passing. So, I'm not sure that, I'm not sure how I would vote at this moment to say we're going to allocate more monies to this in the future, as opposed to some of our other priorities on the list. So, I just wanted to kind of throw that out there. And I want us to kind of have a conversation about that. So just initial thoughts on what I just said. Legislator Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: You're talking about the, the, the Small Business and Economic Recovery Program?

Chairman Criswell: This is the Not for Profit one and the same conversation, we'll come up with the Small Business one.

Legislator Sperry: Right. Okay. And so that is that it's like, earmarked for a certain amount of money, but then it's meant to be spent out for over the course of like, three years, right?

Chairman Criswell: Yeah. So, so it was, so the Nonprofit one was proposed at 3 million. And the Small Business was promoted, proposed that 2 million. What we funded this year was 1.5 for the Nonprofit, and 1 million for the Small Business.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: And just for clarification purposes, no amounts have been dedicated for future years funding.

Chairman Criswell: Right. So, these proposals when they were made, where were they made was that in the Executive's bucket of when the, when the amounts were sort of...

Deputy Clerk Feaster: That's correct. It was initially resolution 333 of 2021, which then, was kind of trumped by the adoption of the 2022 to 2027 Capital Improvement Program, um, which included all of these ARPA buckets in different values.

Chairman Criswell: Right. So, I don't know if you all remember the history of that, for those of you who weren't here, but we, we needed to create some buckets basically, to receive the money. I mean, is that correct? Is that how, I'm stating that correctly? We basically had to create a resolution saying, you know, we're going to be accepting this money. And so we worked with the Executive team, but there was pretty clear communication that these buckets were in theory, they were not set in stone and so that we were going to be adjusting things as we saw the real needs that were happening, and projects that came up and I think we were all quite clear about that from the Executive team and from the ARPA, well there was no ARPA committee at that point, but the, the sort of group of folks who were talking about this most. Anybody else want to add anything to this? Okay, so. Yeah, Comptroller.

Comptroller Gallagher: Chair, can I just say something, and that is, as you get close to the 2024 deadline, I think it's going to be really important to recognize that even allocating the money for this purpose is not going to meet Nate's definition and the IRS' is definition of obligated. And so, as we get closer, as we sort of finish, you know, going into 23, et cetera, obligated, it is really going to be like, you allocate it to the nonprofit thing, you know, bucket, and you put out the call for proposals, and you're in contract with nonprofits to get the money out the door.

Chairman Criswell: Got it.

Comptroller Gallagher: So, yes, and that has to be done by end of 24. So, I just wanted to mention that.

Chairman Criswell: Oh, no, that's a great thing to say, because we have to look at that date and think backwards all the time. Where are we at, and you know, things take several months to get, I mean, we'll have traction on that program, because it will already have been, it will have been executed multiple, with multiple nonprofits. So, we'll already have all that work done. But I think you're totally right, that we just have to have that, that goal date and look backwards and say, Okay, we need six months to ramp this thing up. So, we can really actually get it to through the finish line. Nate, are you in agreement with that as well?

Director of Resilience Litwin: Yeah, yeah, I just wanted to thank you Comptroller Gallagher. I think that's an absolutely excellent point. And from where I sit, I'm very happy to have this month to catch up, maybe like you all, and the fact that we have approximately \$22 million of funding authority, maybe two thirds, let's say, of the total is, is a reasonable place to be at this point, with our timeframe of, you know, the end of 2024, because we are working on the Nonprofit, and we do have to get, you know, our RFAs, you know, the applications in and then we have to create the contract. So, there's plenty of work ahead just to get the obligated point.

Chairman Criswell: Great Legislator Levine.

Legislator Levine: Yes, thanks, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to add the point that, I know, you know, looking at the timeframe of end of 2024, you know, it seems like it's a long way away, but, you know, 40, you know, 31 months, you know, if my math is correct, is it's gonna go quick, you know, so it's going to be important that, you know, that we get these, you know, contracts in writing and that we, you know, get the money allocated in a, as fastidious a way as possible, as quickly as possible so that we're not leaving anything on the table. So it's, it's gonna go quick.

Chairman Criswell: Agreed. Agreed. And I'm sorry, I realized I was remiss in my thank yous, I want to actually send a thank you to Nate and Molly and the other member of your team. I know, you all jumped into something that was complicated as well. And sort of had to create, the build the plane while you're flying it. So, thank you for doing that. And I know that you've been working hard on that. And so, thanks for being part of that ARPA team. Appreciate that. Alright, so the next on the list is the, the three administrative positions, which are referred to right now. And so that is, the estimated total 1.2, right? This is the 1,203,799. And that is over a three-year period, is that correct? A three-year period. So, again, we'll just be looking at those costs as the year goes in. And so are those. If we're talking about there's a certain date that that has to be all spent by how does that jive in terms of the work time, you know the work dates that you're actually doing? Are we going to how do we do that? Any? Nate, sure, give it a shot.

Director of Resilience Litwin: Comptroller.

Comptroller Gallagher: Well, I was just going to say that you're going to be spending it in that last, you may be spending it you know towards the end of whatever year that you're budgeted for, right? And then you'll file your report in the next quarter and you'll say we spent it. Like it's not really going to be a problem. It'll be it'll be obligated when the county budget is adopted, right?

Chairman Criswell: Got it.

Director of Resilience Litwin: Yeah, the county budget would be the best point for obligation. That one, we've, I mean, the great, I think a good piece of news is that the resolution is there. So, there is a funding resolution. I may need to talk to Burt more regarding. You know, luckily, we have a funding resolution, and we have we are in the budget for 2022 and then there would be the budget for 2023. And so, I think we have plenty of time with that one to talk about how 2025 and 2026 would work.

Chairman Criswell: That's great. Just throw that on your back burner for a future, some future thought of how that's actually gonna play out. Yes, Comptroller.

Comptroller Gallagher: Well, it may be that you want to think about not just a three-year run for those folks, if they're going to be managing projects and to 25 and 26. Right? So that number that you have now is a three-year number. So, yeah.

Chairman Criswell: Right. With that, we'd have to create a new resolution, we'd have to, I mean, how would that work?

Comptroller Gallagher: I think that's a future endeavor. Like that's not something that has to be done now. But just when you're looking at what's left if you want to have a team of ARPA people to administer programs into 25 and 26.

Chairman Criswell: Yeah, I think this is also going to be a conversation and Dep-, I see Deputy Executive Kelly's joined us. So, this will be a conversation with you, since you're managing the team and looking at workload and saying, Okay, this is realistically where we're at. And, you know, maybe these, these jobs do sunset, and then, you know, other staff from the county picks it up. I have no idea what your long-term plan is for this. But, you know, we will need to think about it at some point. Right?

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yes, thank you. Yeah, and that's part of the work that we're figuring out now is how long these projects are going to take. Some of them are going to be more involved in terms of actually managing construction projects from design bidding through the entire construction project, you could be talking about a year or more in a single project. I also think the one thing that I'm concerned about in some of the recent conversations is we're just getting started on the municipal water and sewer project, which is going to encompass between 10 and 12 municipalities and just in some recent discussions with some people in not just the town's but also that work in the industry, we're a year out on even getting like the ductile, and iron piping for these larger municipal systems. So, I have a feeling that we're going to potentially award these projects and then have a kind of a significant lag before we're actually shovels in the ground on, on at least the water / sewer side. I think on the other side, in terms of like Elizabeth Manor or 368 Broadway, it's easier to get the labor force in for that and the supplies in but it's still a challenge. And I just, I don't know how long that part is going to continue. So, I think it's a bit of wait and see on those ones.

Chairman Criswell: Well, it's good that now we're thinking about it a bit. And...

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yeah.

Chairman Criswell: You know, as we, as things become clearer, let's talk about how the funds relate to the timeframe of the projects. And so, we'll just put this aside for the moment, but let's not forget about it.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Okay. All right. Great.

Chairman Criswell: Um, next one, is the in-, any more conversation about that? Yes. Comptroller Gallagher.

Comptroller Gallagher: Chair Criswell, I just think that we should be thinking about advocating through, you know, our, our group entities like NACo, and NYSAC, that extension, particularly on infrastructure projects, where it's very hard because it's supply chain issues, to get materials that we may want to, you know, six months out or a year out from now be saying, like, hey, there needs to be extensions for some of this ARPA funding, and I bet you we will see some.

Chairman Criswell: That's interesting. I actually didn't know that extensions were potentially available.

Comptroller Gallagher: They're not right now.

Chairman Criswell: So, you're, you're gonna create them? I like that.

Comptroller Gallagher: I'm gonna beg for them.

Chairman Criswell: I think that sounds great. It's, I think it's really interesting and it's seems reasonable to me. We're not going to be the only county that's in the same situation. We've, you'll see by Amber's other report that there's a lot of sewer and water infrastructure dollars that are being allocated by other counties. So, we're all going to be in the same boat of trying to get, my, you know, have supply chain issues going on. So, can I take a pause here for a moment Amber, can you call role? I see that our other legislators joined us.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Yes. Let the record show that Legislator Corcoran joined us at 5:30.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you so much. Legislator Corcoran, welcome. We are just going over the ARP expenditures list right now. And we are on the Information Services. This is the Constituent Service Navigator Division. So, this was \$405,792. And so, this is in the operating budget and it's funded for 22 only. Is this another project that at some point we would want to consider for future funding? And where would that come from if it's not our funding? Talk to us about that Deputy Executive Kelly.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yeah, so we proposed this as part of the operating budget using county funds, and the legislature decided to use ARP funds for the first year of the program. So, we struggled a bit in terms of finding viable candidates, but I've recently filled out the whole team. And we're full speed ahead on this. And I'll have reporting, I have reporting, I'm going to be sending out to the whole legislature that's kind of backward looking over the first quarter of this year for which is obviously going to be more COVID focused, but now we're switching the dial and moving forward on the other programs. So, I intend on going forward for next year.

Chairman Criswell: Let me play a little devil's advocate here.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yeah.

Chairman Criswell: Is this something that we might consider actually not using ARPA funds for this year? And trying to actually put it back into county budget funds?

Deputy Executive Kelly: I'm game. That was our intention from the beginning. So, I have no problem doing that.

Chairman Criswell: Chairwoman Bartels, did you hear what I just talked about? And do you have an opinion on that?

Legislative Chair Bartels: I, I did hear you I can you hear me?

Chairman Criswell: Yep.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Yeah, I mean, I definitely think that it's worth evaluating this. And any other projects that have outstanding, including, potentially as we get tight, you know, when I've mentioned it on the floor, projects, like the Brownfields where we approved, you know, three years worth of funding, but arguably, we could use the second two years out of operating rather than ARPA, considering that we have much more latitude with what we could spend ARPA on.

Chairman Criswell: I totally agree with you. I think we're coming up to a moment where we can really sharpen our pencils and look at all the lines and say, Alright, really, is there some other place that we can pull this funding from so that we could have a real wide latitude in spending for some other project? And I think Deputy Executive Kelly, you're up for that conversation as well. Correct?

Deputy Executive Kelly: Absolutely.

Chairman Criswell: Okay. Great. So, committee, let's kind of put that in our, in our hats as well think about that. Yes, Clerk Feaster.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: I just pulled up the Constituent Service Navigator budget to actual and to date they're at 5% of the adopted budget for expenditures.

Chairman Criswell: Okay, so almost nothing at this point, right.

Deputy Executive Kelly

So, we just have, the fourth person will be starting on May 7th, they just have to finish out their role at Emergency Management / 911. So, all positions by May 7th will be filled but they're, you know, to Amber's point, it's certainly a savings in there so it's not going to be fully expended.

Chairman Criswell: Okay. Well, let's look at that. And let's look at that, that as a possible shift over.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: I just want to correct myself, it's 11%. I looked at the wrong line, sorry.

Chairman Criswell: No worries. All right, great. Moving on to the, any, any other conversation about that? Okay, moving on to the respite houses. So, we have dedicated 1.5 to that. Those are not actual costs at this point. So I think this is also going to be one of those projects that we're looking at, you know, are we going to have, what the rehab costs are. Is this going to be a new build? Is this going to be, I mean, again, Deputy Executive Kelly, you have thoughts on, on the respite houses?

Deputy Executive Kelly: I mean, in some of the initial discussions, because these, my understanding is the setup is that these are actual homes and, in a community, and not, you know, four bedroom and that's kind of what the setup was. So, my original thought is to look at the foreclosure eligible properties and see if we could use them for public use and benefit. Certainly, a respite house would be that and then we would sell them to an operator. I have to see what's left on the auction in terms of the single-family homes, because my understanding is that that thing was pretty hot this year, in terms of purchases. So, I'd have to look at what's out there in terms of viable locations, because I know that the intent of the sponsor was also to have these dispersed throughout the county, which makes a ton of sense.

Chairman Criswell: I was actually a sponsor, so.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Oh, sorry. Okay, I was thinking of Legislator Walter too. I apologize.

Chairman Criswell: No worries. No, worries. Yeah, the intent is probably Ellenville and then somewhere in the northern area.

Deputy Executive Kelly: And I would honestly also consider as, being done in Ellenville today and then understanding that to really get to the Shawangunk and other side of the southern end of the county's pretty difficult. So, if we were to really think of the southern end, it's not like it's really contiguous. We should also consider Gardiner or Shawangunk and Wallkill area too in terms of resourcing something like this. So, what I'll do is see what is still left on the foreclosure eligible list and see what's potentially coming up for next year. We have a million and a half that's appropriated. So that's not a small budget. But maybe I'll see what's out there. And if, if something feels right, or one of the five properties that was considered for affordable, maybe one of those is viable for it, and maybe we can put together a small working group to discuss this more intently.

Chairman Criswell: Great. And, and I don't think we're even limited to two. I mean, I think that was the goal was two, but in theory, I mean, more, we could, we could do three if we had the money, and it seemed appropriate in terms of,

Deputy Executive Kelly: I think finding the operator.

Chairman Criswell: I agree with you. I think that's going to be the...

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yeah, like, I don't know that this exact model exists. I know that there's a different type of house. I, rose house?

Chairman Criswell: Rose houses. Yeah.

Deputy Executive Kelly: So that's a different model slightly is my understanding. And that's in Orange County. It's not, right?

Chairman Criswell: Correct. Yep.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Okay. And so, yeah, I think let's, I'm open. And I don't know that it would be me, I would think that Joanna would be more appropriate for that working group since it's her area. But I think having that conversation and moving the ball off. The appropriations has been approved. So...

Chairman Criswell: That sounds great. Chairwoman Bartels, I saw you had your hand up.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Oh, yeah. Deputy Executive Kelly mentioned it, I was just talking about the, gonna mention the properties that had been pulled with the intent to think about affordable housing. I think that we need to look at those properties for, for this purpose as well.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Excellent. All right. Moving on. Crisis Stabilization Center. I have to say it was very moving to be at the at the signing yesterday. That was really great. And Legislative Sperry was there with me as well as Legislator Uchitelle. It felt great to watch that, pen to paper at that moment. So, we, we have dedicated 3.3 million to it. And the acquisition was 2 million, which leaves an estimated 1.3 for renovations. But we've also had conversations about creative ways to fund the renovations. You want to speak to that a little bit Deputy Executive Kelly?

Deputy Executive Kelly: So, we've talked about using like, instead of using ARPA funds, we could just use bonds, traditional, you know, like our financing for capital, our, our bond rates still extremely low. I'm not sure on the renovation cost size, but I don't think we need to use ARPA for that. I think another way to look at this is let's see where we are in terms of overall fund balance and is there you know, interest rates will be going up, I think we're going to see the first half point increases that, I don't even, I don't even remember when those were. But those are coming. So, it may get a little more expensive to borrow but I do think that we can do it outside of ARPA, that that is the hope. And then there's also the state RFP, or they call it something else for a crisis stabilization center, is out now. So, if we get state approval, then they can come in for capital construction assistance on the center. So, we're really hoping to get that as part of this. But either way, we'll move forward.

Chairman Criswell: That's great. And then in reality, if that happens, that will give another million or so.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Back in.

Chairman Criswell: Possibility. Yeah. So, Legislator Erner, I see your hand.

Legislator Erner: Thank you Chair Criswell. This is a little bit beyond the scope of the ARPA committee, but since we're talking about the site, what, what, if any, impact to budgeting will operation, operations have going, going forward with whatever facilities we ended up putting there? I know, we're going to put, for example, that head, the headquarters of mental health is going to move in there. Is there any, any projection as to the overall impact on operating budgets and where? Anything like that? Yeah.

Chairman Criswell: I'll let you take that.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Sure. I'll have, I'll get in touch with DPW in terms of the additional maintenance footprint that we need to maintain the facility, because it will be ours regardless of who operates the crisis stabilization center, so we'll be responsible for it. So, I'll find that answer up for you.

Chairman Criswell: It's a great question. Thank you for asking it. All right, moving on. So, regarding the senior housing 600,000. The Ulster County Land Bank Development Corporation, a million. COVID Pay for CSEA is 801. So, there's three buckets of COVID pay. There's CSEA, UCSA, and then there's a UCSEA. So, we're, we've got those three buckets. So that's 801, 23, and 588. And then we've got the infrastructure and trails for the rail trail improvements. That was 2.1 million. Then we've got the 21 Elizabeth Street housing project, and this was 700,000. This was for the acquisition of the property, no renovation costs were included or requested. But there will definitely be costs associated with that. So, I'm assuming that will come from, where will that come from Chris?

Deputy Executive Kelly: Which one was this?

Chairman Criswell: This is Elizabeth Street.

Deputy Executive Kelly: So, Elizabeth Street is intended to be a family emergency shelter. So that's 100% funded by the state. For single adults, it's not. It's a portion of what it costs but for families, it's 100% funded.

Chairman Criswell: Great. All right, excellent. Chairwoman Bartels, you had a question, and then I saw Comptroller Gallagher.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Yes. I just wanted to clarify, what, your question had to do with renovation, not operation, right?

Chairman Criswell: Okay, thank you so much. I appreciate that. Yeah, it was renovation.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yep. So, the renovation costs is there's \$100,000 coming from a state and municipal grant from Senator Hinchey. There's 500,000 in ARP funds coming from the City of Kingston. And then we're going to ask the Bruderhof to come in and do some of the, I don't want to say lower skilled labor, but some of the non-technical work which they've done at the Patriot's project as well. So, we think with that grouping of funds that we'll be able to execute.

Chairman Criswell: Great, thank you for that clarifying question.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: All right. Chairwoman Bartels, do you still have your hand up? Or was that? Was that the question? Yep. Done. I see Chairwoman Greene. Hello.

Legislator Greene: Hi. I, I want to ask a general question. But I thought this was a good time to ask. I want to be sure that while we're doing renovations, we're super insulating the building and ensuring healthy standards. I don't want to be, find out afterwards that we didn't raise the concern. And it's too late now.

Chairman Criswell: Noted. Thank you so much. Do you have anything to say to that Deputy Executive Kelly?

Deputy Executive Kelly: No, I mean, I think as we, so we haven't purchased the space yet. It's not a completed sale. But I certainly appreciate that. And I'm just, like the right time to really get people's attention on that, I think is when we start to get in the construction mode on this. So, Nate and the ARP team are going to be part of the project management team on that project, as well as all of them. Yes, Nate, you are. So, Nate hears you. And I think that incorporating that into the early planning stages can happen.

Legislator Greene: I, I raised it because I've had the experience multiple times of raising the concern, and then being told, it's too early. It's too early. It's too early. Oops, I'm sorry. It's too late. So, I want to prevent that from happening. And my other question, and I only raise it now, because I'm not sure how long this meeting is going to go but I have a work-related meeting at six. Has any progress been made on low- and moderate-income energy retrofits? We had been discussing that as a possible project. And the last time I talked to Dennis Doyle, in planning, he's indicated that it was, you know, ready. And I haven't seen a draft or anything, but I just want to know the status of that. And I'm sorry if it's out of that.

Chairman Criswell: That's fine. We are going to talk about that later in our priorities list. But if anybody has any information on that right now, we'd love to hear it. So, hearing crickets, there's no information on this at this point. And so, I think this is a probably a follow up to Dennis and to figure out where that's at, and what numbers are attached to it. And looking at that in our ARPA priorities and seeing, seeing where that lands in terms of funding, I think it'd be great to get real numbers. Legislator Corcoran. Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Legislator Greene and then Legislator Corcoran.

Legislator Greene: And I just want to say one, one other thing, on that and that is that often low- or moderate-income households are tenants. And so, we've been doing some brainstorming to figure out how, how some funding, maybe as a pilot project could go in a competitive way to landlords, and in a way that the tenants would benefit. So that. So, anyway, I won't take up the, the committee's time with details. But we are in the process of sharing those with them, Dennis Doyle, and anyone else who's interested, just so that across the board, and not only benefiting

low- and moderate-income homeowners who really do need the help, but, and we really need people to start doing any energy retrofits.

Chairman Criswell: No worries at all. And just so you know, I you weren't here for the beginning of the meeting but I said at this meeting, we're going to basically taking a little pause, and trying to understand where we're at financially, seeing what we have left, and then look at all our priorities to date. And so, thank you for bringing that into the mix and to our awareness. Thank you. Legislator Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran: I just wanted to quickly interject that Ulster County's wouldn't be exempt of the New York State Building Code. So, the renovation of this home will have the correct installation and energy efficiency required by New York State, you know, under the code, so we won't get an exemption from that. So, you can be assured that that building inspector and code enforcement officer will hold our feet to the fire to the New York State code. So again, that's my interjection as a code enforcement officer, I would do the same thing no matter who it is.

Chairman Criswell: That's great. Thank you for that bit of information. That's important. All right, moving on. The water and sewer infrastructure by the Town of Ulster. This is the Quality Inn Project, \$2 million. And then the ARPA water and sewer matching program. This is \$5 million. All right, so Amber. Now. Oh, the last one is so we still have a proposed allocation, which is the jail demolition. And that is \$1.5 million. That has not been approved yet. But it's in track. And then, Amber could you address the four things that you have after that? The after, the...

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Okay.

Chairman Criswell: Give us the bottom line of where we're at. That's what I'm asking you for.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: The bottom line of where we're at right now, assuming the jail demolition passes the legislature would be 9,484,655 dollars. If the decision was made to continue the Vaccine POD at its current costs, to continue the Nonprofit program through the next three years, and to carry Small Businesses through two full years, or two rounds of funding, and then to continue Constituent Service Navigator for one more year, then the remaining ARPA allocation is 6,040,613 dollars. Keeping in mind that the estimates for personnel costs for the ARPA division are still a moving target. They're still just an estimate.

Chairman Criswell: Great, thank you so much for doing that. I think it's really clear. Then, what we're looking at in terms of those carryover programs and then where we're at with our bottom line. But again, hearing now tonight that there could be some possibilities of moving some, some expenses to other lines, you know, that will be added to this pot eventually. So again, we're somewhere around 10 million at this point, but it could, it could be a little more, I think, and, or it could be a little less depending on where we go. Legislator Erner, I see your hand up.

Legislator Erner: Thank you Chair Criswell, and just about the jail for a moment. You and I had talked, and I think through the Chair, I'd like to ask Deputy Executive Kelly, just to clarify

why the county is taking on paying for this. There's some rumors going around that the original proposal through for the developer said that they would do it and, and I'm hearing that maybe that they never said that they would. Can you just, can someone please clarify that?

Deputy Executive Kelly: Sure. Thank you. I'm not in a position to speak to like rumors that go around the county on any of the projects. So, I think it would be fair to have Marc Rider, Dennis Doyle who have been a part of this from its inception, address the specific questions which I know they're prepared to do in the environment committee since they've already passed this committee. So, I just, you know, I'm not in a position to speak to that part of it. I haven't been part of that process.

Chairman Criswell: Comptroller Gallagher.

Comptroller Gallagher: Yeah, I just wanted to mention that I've reviewed the contract between Penrose and the Ulster County Housing Development Corporation, and actually the contract calls on the county to, to help the developer find funding for demolition. So, there's an express statement in the contract that we will help them find funding, I'm happy to send you a copy of the contract Legislator Erner, if that would be helpful.

Legislator Erner: Yes, yeah, please. I'm not sure where the rumor comes from. I haven't seen it. So that'd be great to see. And anything else that might have led people to believe that the developer said one thing and now we're being asked something else. But yeah, that sounds great. Thank you,

Chairman Criswell: Legislator Greene.

Legislator Greene: Yeah, I would just also like to say that there's a difference between demolition and deconstruction, in terms of materials management. And if we don't start implementing climate solutions, then it's on us what happens in in the future. But I, rather than be negative, I'd rather be positive and ask that we set an example and telling me something needs code? Yes, of course, it's going to meet code and not be exempt. I'm asking for super insulation, air sealing, healthy building practices, some of which may exceed code. And I think we need to do cost / benefit risk analysis, especially on things that are, are building projects or renovations. Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Yes, Legislator Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran: Right now, you really can't even exceed code where the energy code is written without doing air exchange, because it's under three on the air exchange. These houses are so tight right now, as building officials were actually concerned with that. So again, be assured that that house will be as tight as they can be with under two on the air exchange.

Legislator Greene: Great. That's what I wanted to hear.

Chairman Criswell: Excellent. All right, I'm gonna move us along to the next document, which unless anybody has any final comments or questions. All right, I'm gonna move us along. So,

this fancy piece of work that Amber put together. I am going to let her talk about where she got the information from and kind of how she constructed it, and then kind of walk us through it a little bit. But when I read through it, it was so helpful for me to think about what we've expended so far, what we're, what we're looking to expand and then what areas we haven't touched at all, and to look at it in relationship to other counties and where their spending has as occurred. So Amber, if you could give us a tour of your, your fancy work here.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Thank you. Um, I pull data from the National Association of Counties website, they have a Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker available on the website. I did an export and for the sake of time, I narrowed it down to New York municipalities only. The disclaimer on this from NACo's website is that this tracker was last updated on April 13th 2022, and contains project data from the recovery plan submitted by local governments to the Department of Treasury on August 31st 2021. So, like us, we can expect that there were probably some changes. But this is the best that we have to go off right now in this moment. So, what I did was organize it by categories. In order to create the categories, I actually read through every single description that they had. So that rather than trusting someone else to categorize it, or using the Department of Treasury's categorizations, I was able to hone in a little bit better, and categorize it in a way that was more useful. So, I, then because the numbers were so different, decided to use percentages, so that we can see how these New York municipalities are spending their total buckets. And you could kind of see these clusters where a lot of, or there was a great deal of money being put into economic recovery. In, organizations, we're really focusing on health and mental health, on housing, and on water and sewer. So that's one of the major takeaways from that specific page. Then on the next page, I narrowed it down to counties only. And then I created a graph of the actual values so that you could see spending-wise, if there were, like expenditures or like buckets planned to be spent.

Chairman Criswell: Great. So, if you've had a chance to look at this, I'd love to just hear comments about it. And again, for me, the biggest things that came out of it was just to see what we haven't spent any money on at this point. And what we have considered priorities in our in our priorities list. For example, we keep talking about workforce development, but we haven't actually allocated any ARPA funds to workforce development at this point. Youth Programs, we haven't allocated anything directly towards youth programs. Direct aid to schools, the arts, and broadband are also other areas of possible funding that we have not addressed at this point. So, I thought that was, that was a pretty useful thing to see for me personally. Other committee members thoughts on the document or what, what it's bringing up for you? Legislator Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: Yeah, I so appreciate this work that Amber has done, because it really does help us to see how other counties are using their money and how we stack up against them. One of the things that I was thinking is, especially because when we were at NYSAC, like a month or so ago, one thing that kept coming up over and over again, was childcare and support for childcare. So, I would say almost, that you could even combine youth programs and childcare. And so, if there's like some type of proposal in the future, that we could support through that, that would be awesome. And then I do know also, one of the things that was mentioned at NYSAC and this is like both of those things. The childcare element and broadband was brought up by Hochul, like a few times during that. So, I don't know how that will trickle down from the

state budget into the counties. But that might even be a collaboration between ARPA and state funding.

Chairman Criswell: Right. Yes, Legislator Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt: Thank you, Chair Criswell. I just wanted to say I'm happy that we're putting a pause on the spending and considering everything. I'm working on two resolutions with the legislative staff and respect the fact that we're slowing down. I'm not putting them forward this month. And one is about food security, which is also missing from our chart, as far as spending so far, and the other one is about youth programs. And I just wanted to let you all know that the food security component so far, I've talked to some farmers about creating nut trees on a variety of farms across the county so that we have long term food security in a high protein rich food in farms across the county. The farmers I spoke to already said they're willing to share during times of food crises, and these are the types of long-term solutions I'm thinking about. So, I just want to say I'm happy about the pause.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Thank you for that information. It's great to hear. Other thoughts? Yes. Deputy Executive Kelly.

Deputy Executive Kelly: So, in terms of workforce development, and this is actually back to, unfortunately, she's not here, Legislator Greene's point earlier on the retrofits. So, part of the original concept for the program she's describing was to do the, the home energy retrofits for low to moderate income households, but to do it also as a workforce development program. So, any of the contractors doing the work, or if we were partnering with RUPCO, who is, RUPCO is currently doing a program, or are getting ready to, that we would also be training the workforce. Part of the, I think what requires more investigation, based on some of my current conversations in the workforce development world is there's enough work right now for the people that we'd be trying to attract into some of these labor type positions, or to train for, they're so busy right now that I don't know if we're hitting the right angle quite yet there. So that's part of what we're trying to figure out. And Sharon from OET, and part of this kind of constructed green workforce development group, we are engaged in that discussion. Chris Marks is also involved with that from SUNY. The other part of workforce development, and I think it was Legislator Walter, who had that idea when we were discussing direct aid to business. We're really open to having that discussion about what program is the right program, and what workforce we want to concentrate on in terms of creating the pathway to employment. So we're certainly ready to engage in that conversation. I think OET and OED and some of the industry, different industries that are currently struggling with, certainly want to participate there, too. There was another, so, where, and I talked to the Chair about this earlier this week, so we're getting ready to, on some level, and I don't know if it's ARPA or what it is, but we have an RFP and we have responses about doing a mental health program for schools. And this came just out of the pure anxiety that came from all of the schoolchildren. Anyone that has school aged children are, they're still struggling to this day, and probably will be for some years to come, just because of the uncertainty and the different way the schools were operating during the last two and a half years. So, this, this was also spurred kind of by Legislator, former Legislator Parete's effort to try and do something in schools. And it was well intentioned, but we certainly weren't in favor of how it was crafted, but the intention is real and we do think that either through the program we're trying to design or, I

was with the Ellenville School District today, there's state money that is trying to accomplish the same thing right now. So, I just ping that over to Johanna when I got back from Ellenville is, there seems to be multiple people working on the same type of efforts. So there is a chance I do bring something before the committee, but I'll make sure that we do it in the same way, that the presentation will be made. And the plan will be brought before everybody with enough time to consider. So, I guess this is my way of saying maybe, and maybe soon. And if we were to do something, we would, we would certainly have to get it in place by June or July. I would say July probably just because making sure that the school systems that want to participate would have that time to plan.

Chairman Criswell: That sounds great.

Deputy Executive Kelly: That's kind of the youth angle. One last piece and then I'll be quiet. The second portion, like again, this is originally envisioned as part of the Non-for-Profit Program, it was originally \$3 million. One and a half million is the small dollar five to \$50,000 grants that is non-capital and then we envisioned a larger program of capital where it could be municipal. You know, I don't want to say municipal, but it was more to help do larger projects and one that comes to mind, and Chair Bartels brings up the need for community kitchens. Right? Southern end of the county. Northern end of the county. That's kind of where this idea came from anyway of up to \$150,000 awards for about 10, you know, substantial projects, which can help them come to fruition. So, we're still of the mindset that something like that could / should happen. I think the community kitchen thing is something that should certainly happen. And I think there would be a demonstrated need. So, we're open to that part of it, too. Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you, Chair Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Thank you. Um, so, yeah, it's a lot. I guess I'll start and move backwards. So, the community kitchen. Yes, it was, you know, was on the list. And, and I still feel strongly about a community kitchen in both the North and Southern end of the county, if it can bear it. And, and I think we could approach that project, not as a part of a larger, not for profit capital grant, but as a standalone project for the community kitchens. I know that Legislator Sperry is also been working and, and including other Legislators and the Executive's team, in discussions on the possibility of a meat processing facility, which I see in much the same, much the same vein, and, and could ultimately have a connectivity to workforce development in terms of training people for work that does not currently exist in the county but is but is a highly needed. I think the idea of really assessing what line of, of workforce, we would want to invest in training in the hopes of keeping through a program that potentially has a requirement of working within the county for a period of time, depending on the investment that the county makes in it, we had talked about that in relation to nursing, and I'm not sure where the governor's proposal to the same effect has gone or where it stands, and I would want to look into that. But I, but I also think it would be valuable to determine what line of work would, would be the most productive. We certainly don't want to invest in training people for work that, you know, doesn't exist in the county or currently is not in need of new employees. As to the mental health for youth program. I just heard about this this week from Legislator Walter. I was not aware of it Deputy Executive Kelly. I, you know, in terms of mental health programming, the many legislators the last term spoke of a commitment to, to creating a program or programming

which came out of former Legislator Parete's proposal, which I think was well meaning but, but flawed in it's approach. I would want, independent of ARP, I would want proposal, I would, I would really want to sit in on that discussion, particularly because it's, it's not something that that, you know, that generator began in this committee. I mean, if it's if we're proposing to spend ARP funds for it, then this committee would be, of course, a part of it, too, but I think it would, it would necessitate an engagement of the Health Committee.

Chairman Criswell: I think we just lost you. Chair Bartels.

Legislative Chair Bartels: ...As well.

Chairman Criswell: Oh.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Yes.

Chairman Criswell: We just lost you for a little while.

Legislative Chair Bartels: You have me back?

Chairman Criswell: Now you're back. Okay.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Okay. I'm sorry. I don't know where you lost me.

Chairman Criswell: I think we got the gist of it. ARP, ARP funds and for the...

Legislative Chair Bartels: Health Committee.

Chairman Criswell: Yep. Exactly.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Okay. The one thing that I wanted to add about the mental health for youth, is just really, I think it's imperative that we get an understanding, not only of what other funding's available, but of how the schools have spent their funding. You know, this, the schools got a substantial amount of ARP funding and I think it's important that we know how they, how they've invested that funding, and where they've placed mental health on, on their priorities. That's not to say that we wouldn't still prioritize it in our own way, but, but they are, you know, they are the frontline of dealing with county's youth at this moment. So, I would want to know how they've invested the money thus far. And I'm sure I have more but I think I'll pause for a moment.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Thank you. I wanted to throw one thing into the mix. Sort of riffing off of what you just said Legislator Bartels about an industry that that is a growing industry here in our county that could use some support. I had a proposal to fund Stockade Works, which is a work force development program for the film industry. And it's a huge industry in our county, and it's a growing industry. And if we actually have a workforce that we can show to producers, that we've got this workforce here in, in the county, that they don't have to bring people in, that they can get all their below-the-line folks at a reasonable rate. So, they're

not having to fly them in and pay huge per-diems and do all those things. That's a huge, that could be a huge win for our county, and it's already the momentum is already there. So, what my proposal was, was to support Stockade Works in expanding their equipment and facilities so that they would actually have the ability to really start a robust training process for, for film folks. And I'd love to have further conversation with you, Legislator Sperry about this, because I know this is, this is your business. But but I think that is an industry for sure that we could support and to me that it would, it would take two of these areas that we haven't committed to, which is workforce development and the arts. So, I think I'm going to actually put that back into, I'm going to put it into a resolution form. I don't think we voted on it. Does anybody remember? Did we vote on it? Legislator Corcoran, do you remember? Did we vote on that last year? Or maybe Legislator Bartels? Do you remember? Chairwoman Bartels.

Legislator Corcoran: I don't remember.

Legislative Chair Bartels: I don't think we did.

Legislator Corcoran: Yeah, I don't think so.

Chairman Criswell: I don't think we did either. So, I'm actually gonna put it into resolution form and, and probably put that in front of the committee, just to see how that shakes down. Um, great, did, Chairwoman Bartels you have your hand up. Did you want to say something else?

Legislative Chair Bartels: Yeah, just two quick things I wanted to follow on and then I remembered what the last comment. So yes, I mean, I think film the film industry is probably, you know, if we do that, and that work of the analysis is probably, would net out to be an excellent investment. It's a growing business, in the region, and as you point out, having local skilled professionals lowers the cost of productions coming into the region. So, and that's something that could start, you know, as early as high school in terms of internships and training. It's a wide, wide array of jobs, so, variety of jobs. So, I just want to support you on that and say that I think that's an excellent idea. The, the other thing I wanted to bring up was about Legislator Greene's request to to get some more information about the green energy retrofits. You know, one of the things that, that I've struggled with on this front is really, and I would ask that, you know, any proposal that's related to the green energy retrofits that it also includes some level of analysis of what's currently out there. You know, in other words, I would like to know, for programs like the one that NYSERDA is administering, which is, which is essentially the same type of program, I would want to know what the waiting list is. Those programs do cover low-income property owners and renters in an identical manner. You know, your, you, the, the, the eligibility, eligibility for the program is on the person who's occupying the property, whether they own or rent. And so, I don't know if there's a very long waiting list. The people that I know who have who have utilized these programs had essentially zero wait. So, I think it would be important to know if we're duplicating a service that already, other funding already exists out there. To the extent that it's supporting a green energy workforce, that's a very different conversation and, and I think they don't have to be, they don't have to be connected. They could be they could be separated out. If in fact, there isn't a demonstrated need that goes beyond the funding that currently exists.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you. Legislator Sperry, I see you, but can I take one pause for a moment, in my excitement to get this conversation started? I actually forgot to approve our, get a motion to approve our minutes. So, could I get a motion?

Legislator Corcoran: Motion

Chairman Criswell: And a second. And all in favor of approving the minutes from the last meeting.

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Any oppo-, last two meetings. It's the last two. Let me be clear about this. It's the March 30th 2022 meeting and the April 13th 2022 meeting. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Any opposed? Okay, business completed. Thanks, Amber. Legislator Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: So, just to circle back to the supporting film production, workforce development, you know, it is my wheelhouse. And as an educator, you know, who teaches people how to make movies and trying to keep them in the area, and you know, every, whatever, they're always like trying to move to New York City or LA or whatever. Because, you know, they want to be famous. You know, there are initiatives, there's a couple of different stakeholders that are already in progress. You have the Woodstock Film Festival, Hudson Valley Film Commission, you have Stockade, you have Upriver. You have all of these different entities, which is great, but I think one of the things that we see is that folks that are coming up from the City are bringing their folks with them, you know, so they're not necessarily hiring local people, because they have a crew, and they're just bringing them with them. Sure, if people are coming to us from the West Coast, they might hire locally. But it's not necessarily that they're not, not wanting to hire locally, it's just that they already have a built-in crew or a team that they're already working with. I do think that there would be a good opportunity to explore supporting the Ulster County or the Ulster Community College media program, because, you know, I, they're more of a Media Studies program versus a Media Production program, because they haven't had a lot of funding with equipment and such. So, we get students that transfer to us at SUNY New Paltz from Ulster, and they have no production experience, because they don't have the tools there. So, I'm just wondering if maybe that's a good way of supporting that type of initiative is through the community college. I don't know. This is a longer conversation that we can have. But I do agree that we should look comprehensively at the county and see where the holes are, as far as workforce, and really kind of be strategic about that. I know, you know, there's a lot of home improvement and carpentry and plumbing and, you know, trade-oriented work happening in the county. And if we need, if we can be supportive in that way, great. But I do, I hope that trade-wise, we can be a little bit more strategic in helping folks get training and get jobs.

Chairman Criswell: Sounds good. Thank you so much. I think with that if nobody objects, I'd actually like to move, move us on to the final document, which is where we're going already. It's basically, it's the, Amber actually do you want to walk us through this? Just give us the once over.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: The last document is the ARPA, the Legislative ARPA priority results. So this was the survey that was circulated to the legislature. And what I've done with this is reorganize it so that anything that's, that existed on this list that's already been approved is isolated. So, leaving everything else in order, leaving the numbers in there and kind of renumbering just what's left, just to show where, like really what's remaining from the survey that hasn't yet been considered, or voted on and having it in isolation so that you have it for reference.

Chairman Criswell: So, we can kind of quickly go through the list here. And, and see what we've already talked about. It's 6:20. I want to be mindful of people's time. So, shall we do that? Shall we do sort of a quick run through of the of the list? Okay. Because I think some of these, we've actually already had pretty robust conversation about. So the first one is the establishing of the community kitchen. We've talked about that. Second one is developing a public health nursing team and I know that Deputy Executive Kelly, you had some opinions about this in terms of that that might not be the workforce that we actually need right now because, so anyway, I'll let you talk about it for a second.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yeah, so our positions are full. We've had some turnover. And like at the height of the pandemic, it was certainly more difficult, because we lost people. But at this point, the, that part has stabilized. So also, within the Governor's Bill, this is speaking to workforce and retaining public health side. There's language that we're researching about retention and recruitment bonuses. So, we're certainly looking at that part of it. So, there may be state, state mandate. I don't know if there's state money.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Okay. Thank you. Legislator Levine and then I see Chairwoman Bartels.

Legislator Levine: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question. Clarification on, for the value column for the projects that, you know, we haven't approved or have in the process. Is that, like, so for example, like for the community kitchen, the million \$1 million or 1 million value, is that was that a million dollars that was proposed for that project? Or...

Chairman Criswell: No, that was an estimate.

Legislator Levine: Okay.

Chairman Criswell: And it could be a high estimate, actually. But we just wanted to put something in there as an estimate.

Legislator Levine: Thank you for that. clarification. Appreciate it.

Chairman Criswell: You're welcome. Yeah, Legislator Bartels. Chairwoman.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Thank you. So, can you hear me?

Chairman Criswell: Yes, now we can.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Oh, good. Sorry. It's a wacky phone. Um, so on the, on the public health nursing proposal. You know, I think, at the, at the point that we were discussing it, we were deep in the COVID crisis, and not that we're not still in, in the COVID situation, but certainly things have stabilized. But I, on that front, I would want to get a sense, if not for County public health nurses, is there, is there a demand and a need for a nursing workforce in the county at the local hospital. So that might be something that we need to talk to the local hospitals about whether or not that kind of program could feed the local workforce, at the, at the local hospitals and other health care facilities with the, the knowledge and the understanding that, you know, nursing is a, you know, is a, it's a robust career choice. And so, I think there's still value to looking into that, even with the Governor, Governor's proposal. My understanding of the Governor's proposal without all the detail, is that, you know, it's more of a statewide proposal. So, it might not specifically benefit Ulster County, you know, in terms of a pipeline to hiring. Might keep people in the state, but not necessarily in the county. So, I think we could do a micro version of it still. And, and then I just wanted to comment on Legislator Levine's comments. I think from the earliest estimates, and in talking to communicate, Community Action, with regard to what a renovation in their kitchen would cost. And also, in contemplating the possibility of a southern community kitchen, I do think that that estimate is, is very, very high. Even for the two kitchens, probably at least by you know, it could probably, it could probably suffer a 50% cut and still be still, be more than enough.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you for that clarification. I put that number in, just so you know, because I wanted to put some sort of number in so we'll, we'll adjust that number to 500,000 for the next time we send this out. Does that sound realistic?

Legislative Chair Bartels: Yeah, that sounds great.

Chairman Criswell: Okay, great. We'll do that. All right. Next one is the funding of Cornell Cooperative Extension to expand Food Service Programs. And Deputy Executive Kelly, can you talk to this just a little bit?

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yep. So, Amanda Lavelle. We were getting ready to have her present for this month's session on a plan for food access and security. So, we tabled that just in favor of taking the breather, but I'd be happy if we're going to continue. If maybe, we do that in the next meeting. I can have Amanda come speak to it. She's, she's really done a lot of work on this, and this comes out of her work doing the Recovery and Resiliency program during COVID and I don't want to step on...

Chairman Criswell: It's great. I heard an initial presentation several months ago, and so yeah, this, I think it'd be great for the community to hear that.

Deputy Executive Kelly: So, do you think next, when, I have, she is ready.

Chairman Criswell: I, I think that this meeting was our pause, take a moment, kind of get our finance. I think next meeting we can go back to hearing proposals.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Okay.

Chairman Criswell: We won't be ready to vote on anything, but what I'm imagining is that, you know, we'll let this meeting sink in. People will have comments. We'll kind of regroup and think about our priorities again, and then we'll be ready to hear some proposals and, and think about where any expanding might happen. Committee, does that strike you as a good method? Okay, great. All right. Next one, funding to access and implement broadband expansion. And then I see that may be possible to pursue this under federal infrastructure funds, rather than ARPA funds. Yes. Comptroller Gallagher.

Comptroller Gallagher: Yeah, I just want to speak to that for a second. It turns out that there is going to be significant, there are going to be significant transfers of federal funds coming for broadband, but they are only going to support cable fiber broadband. So, if there is any community that cable fiber broadband is not financially feasible for, they are not going to be able to use wireless broadband. There is going to be no federal money for wireless broadband and / or StarLink, or any sort of satellite. So, I wanted to just mention that because you may want to keep that in mind. Actually, the county GIS folks have been mapping existing broadband and bringing the map up to date. And we're probably going to put that out in the next week or so for public comment, so people have a chance to look at it, and then that'll hopefully work into the state map over the next six months or so. So.

Chairman Criswell: That's, that's great to hear. And, you know, the thing we might do is we might actually look at some of these other counties that did fund broadband and understand better, did they have some sort of insider information that that made them use ARPA fundings for rather than state fundings? So that, that'd be good. I see Chairwoman Bartels and then Legislator Levine.

Legislative Chair Bartels: Thank you. I just had a question in the, in the mapping. And this is through you to the Comptroller, Chair Criswell, in the, in the GIS mapping of broadband, which I think that's a, I mean, I think that's a really critical component of this, is really understanding community by community where there is need and where there are holes. And so, I'm wondering two things. One, is there a lot of collaboration with the local supervisors and municipal leaders? Because they probably have the, you know, the best handle on needs in their communities. And two, is the outreach on the maps in terms of public support, going to be beyond using the internet for outreach? Because obviously, if you don't have internet, you're not going to, you're not going to, you're not going to know about a, about a hearing or a plan via the internet.

Comptroller Gallagher: Great, sorry, I don't want to take up a tremendous amount of the ARPA committees time, but actually, I'm going to be convening a citizen's commission on digital infrastructure next week, and we're going to be looking at some of those issues. Supervisors were directly involved in the mapping. So, it was Town Supervisors with highlighters and maps, because you're right, they absolutely are the ones who know where the gaps are. There were 14

towns that were unserved the last time the county did mapping, which is over 10 years ago, and one town has been completely served. That is New Paltz, but there are still towns that have areas that are not served by cable-fiber broadband. And Supervisors were directly involved in that, and I appreciate your comments about getting it out in ways other than just the internet.

Unfortunately, we're gonna have to rely on the Supervisors also for that, because, you know, there really is, at this point through my office, no budget to mail a map to every single person in a certain area. And so, we're gonna have to rely on, you know, radio, television, newspapers, internet and word of mouth. Yeah, but I appreciate what you're saying, and I'm open to other ideas and Chair Bartels I will send you a link to the map, because there's parts of your district that I think are impacted. So, you can take a look at it.

Chairman Criswell: Excellent. Legislator Levine.

Legislator Levine: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I was just going to make a comment regarding the, the chart that we were provided with the various counties and municipalities and their, and their ARPA expenditure so far, especially for, or in regard to the broadband that was just brought up. You know, I see Onondaga County and, you know, Syracuse and its environs, you know, spending \$15 million, in Dutchess County a million dollars. I mean, so in regard to what the Comptroller just said, with having, you know, cable, cable-fiber broadband Internet access like that, that would, this funding would only be available for that cable-fiber broadband, is that correct Comptroller?

Comptroller Gallagher: No. What I meant, what I meant was that the new federal infrastructure dollars will only be available. ARPA is much more flexible and that's why you may find that it's necessary to some, to deploy in some regions. I don't know yet. I don't think we have the answer to that. But federal infrastructure dollars are specific to cable-fiber broadband.

Legislator Levine: Thank you for that. I misunderstood before. I appreciate it.

Chairman Criswell: Deputy Executive Kelly.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Thank you, Chair. So, thank you Comptroller Gallagher for that. It is an important distinction in terms of what we were envisioning, because last mile, and actual fiber line construction is extremely expensive. So, what the county was looking at, because we're doing this entire piece of that project and building out additional radio towers for Emergency Communications, is where can we do a point to multipoint installation for wireless? This is something that Sullivan County did an RFP for their entire county, and their topography is very similar to ours, and in some respects, is more challenging. So, I think if we were to still engage in a broadband project, it would be on a limited scale, and where we could use the Emergency Communication towers and high points, to do this point to multipoint, which spreads a wireless signal. You'd have an installation in your home, and then it spreads to the others. And that's how you would create kind of that mesh net that you do in your house. You'd be able to do that in these other locations. There are limitations to this. So, you know, that's why the federal government's only going to really chase after these harder installations with their money. Our part of it would also have limitations in terms of, we'd want to cluster it. We'd want to hit areas where there are some populations there. But we'd be able to probably piggyback off of our own

fiber installation that powers the county and be able to do this on a much lower cost. So I think it's certainly worth exploring. And I think, so the Comptroller, am I going to steal your, I don't want to steal your thunder.

Comptroller Gallagher: No, go ahead.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Alright, so she's got a commission that she's forming, that we're going to participate. She invited us to, where we're going to get everybody in the room to really begin to discuss the issue, the funding, how we should best accomplish the goal of getting everybody covered. So, we're looking forward to participating in that part of it. And I think we should bring this piece to that table as well. It's not an easy problem to solve.

Chairman Criswell: I like, I like that idea. And I also look forward to seeing some sense of numbers so that we can better understand that with what's the remaining of the funding here.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Okay.

Chairman Criswell: Yes, Comptroller Gallagher.

Comptroller Gallagher: If I could just say when I first asked the Director of IS, Allen Macaluso, about the cost of just a small pilot on this, it was remarkably inexpensive. So, the first pilot could be as, could be under \$10,000.

Chairman Criswell: Wow.

Comptroller Gallagher: Yeah.

Chairman Criswell: Okay. That's. Well, that's interesting, because it brings up another question about our ARPA spending at this point, you know? We've talked a lot about big projects that have long-term impact. You know, are we at the place now where we're wanting to do some smaller projects that have long-term impact, you know, spreading the money? This is a philosophical thing that we have to decide. Do we want to spend \$8 million on one big thing and call it a day? Or \$10 million and call it a day? Or do we want to spread this out a million for 10 different projects? So, I think as a committee, we have to think that through a little bit and make some decisions based on, based on that. And also, I remember when we first started, there was a lot of conversations about seed funding, or making sure that whatever we funded, it was not something that became a, you know, an albatross around the county's neck for forever, that we had to continually fund. And so, I think we need to recognize that as well in terms of, you know, what, what are we funding and then who's going to fund it afterwards? You know, but, but something like infrastructure, I mean, there's going to be maintenance costs, but to me that that's a win because you've put in that big one-time expense, and then you know, it, obviously there will be some expense associated with but not that great one-time, initial expense. So alright, let's cruise through. It's 6:37. I definitely want to get us out of here for seven. So, the next one is standby generators for emergency use during crisis. And then there's a whole bunch of other small things that are in here. Can you explain that that grouping of this Amber? This is the one that starts with number 10, standby generators for emergency use during the crisis.

Deputy Clerk Feaster: Oh, so, um, when I reviewed the Legislature's survey, their priority results, I grouped things that were like in nature. So, for instance, when we were initially discussing the water and sewer project, anything that was like for a specific municipality was then grouped into that overarching water and sewer project. So similarly, standby generators for each town, I grouped with reconfiguring traffic patterns for, you know, specific areas, anything that was like very geographically condensed, and infrastructure related, was grouped into that. So, then another grouping was for parks and trails, those things were grouped together. So, I just kind of wanted to emphasize that not all of these suggestions or priorities are terribly different from one another, and that there might be some similarities that you might want to consider.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Okay. Thank you. Yes, Deputy Executive Kelly.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Sorry. There is an interesting tie in to make with regard to the emergency generators. So, this is both coming out of the food access and kind of security issue, but also the recent ice storm and our need for county shelters in multiple locations. So, while I wouldn't want to support just buying a generator for every town hall, what we're doing coming out of our after-action report is looking throughout the county and identifying suitable shelter locations. So, in the event that we have to move people south, we're set up at backup power. But the other point of this and this is something where Amanda LaValle really got my attention on food access and security is, you also have to make sure that not only do we have suitable power, but the ability to prepare food in a shelter location and store food in a shelter location. So really, this thing gets tied together with Everett's emergency planning / shelter planning, along with food access and security. And only Amanda can really link those things in such a way that crystallized it for me, where at first, I'm like, no, I don't want to buy generators for everybody. And then I'm like, oh, I just spent six days managing an ice storm with my team and we need to make sure we have generators everywhere. So, I don't know if it is ARPA. I really don't. I don't. But it's something and it's something that we're actively working on. And that will be costing out. So, I think I've mentioned it to Amanda, just to mention it. But there's something to be said here just in terms of countywide planning for the next storms that come. Maybe it's not our boat. Maybe it is. But I think it's certainly worth conversation having.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. That's great. Thank you. And I, I agree so many people suffered in this storm. And so, I think that as a county, what we can do to show that we, we saw that and that we're, we're looking at ways that we can help ease that suffering for, if there's another round. That's great. All right. Moving us along. We are talking about legal counseling for residents facing eviction. So, it's funding to Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. I don't know where that lives on people's priorities, but that's there. I'm just gonna keep moving on unless somebody raises a hand and wants to talk about something. County provided scholarships through SUNY over the green, green degree programs. All right, I'm gonna move on. Establishing, funding a matching program for park development. So, this is something that Legislator Stewart is going to bring forward. It's the, so he had brought forward the idea of Grady Park, which we as a committee defeated, but I talked to him about looking at the structure that Legislators Maloney and Petite created for the water and sewer project and suggested that he mirror that type of language for a county-wide pot of money for parks for municipalities to have a matching program. So, it'd be a very similar structure. It's a high-ticket price that he'd be

asking. That's five million dollars. That would, have, half, half of our funding would be gone at that point then. So, I think we'd have to look at that. But it's an interesting proposal and he's going to bring that forward at that at our next meeting. Legislator Levine.

Legislator Levine: Yes. Mr. Chair. I just wanted to make a point that I think you might have skipped over the housing smart communities' program.

Chairman Criswell: Oh, sorry about that. The letters are so tiny. My old eyes are struggling. So, thank you. Thank you for that. Did anybody have any comments on the on the parks? And we'll see that in a more fully developed. Yes, Legislator Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: I'm just wondering if, you know, I'm wondering if this is an opportunity for workforce development as well with like, trail maintenance, and like that type of training? You know, because that was something that came up when we were having the conversations about funding the trail extensions, and like the, the legacy costs, and I know, I've spoken to some folks at Wallkill Valley Land Trust. And you know, a lot of these different organizations are like, literally beg, borrowing and stealing, like, volunteer help to, like, keep their trails, like, clean and safe and you know, every time we have a storm, and they got trees going down, baba, baba, bah. So, I'm just wondering if there might be an opportunity here to include some money from Workforce Development as an opportunity to train folks on that type of work?

Chairman Criswell: It's a really interesting idea to sort of broaden the definition of what municipalities could, could be funding. I think that's, that's quite interesting. Any other opinions on that? But I think that sounds interesting. Yes, Legislator Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt: Thank you. Yes. Legislator Sperry just reminded me during the conversation we talked about how Grady Park is about a quarter mile from the D & H, the O & W Rail Trail. And so, these types of parts can have priority for access to existing rail trails, or the Catskills, or the Gunk trailheads. So, what was the other point I was going to make? I forgot it, but, oh, also shared signage. If we have a full county plan, then if we're creating signage about flora, or fauna, for example, we can create signage for 10 Parks instead of just one. So, I think it's a great idea for the whole county.

Chairman Criswell: I like that. Economies of scale. That's nice. Okay, moving on, or moving backwards for a second here into the developing housing smart communities' program. Yes, Deputy Executive Kelly.

Deputy Executive Kelly: So, this was part of our original, this is part of the housing action plan that the county has, and it was part of the original ARPA proposal that the County Executive's office put forward. So, this would be to hire a consultant, as originally envisioned, in order to help towns and municipalities create kind of housing-friendly and smart growth-based zoning. So we can actually do some actual affordable housing. So, get away from five acres zoning and large housing tracts and encourage infill in Hamlet's and different areas to, you know, obviously, clustered housing is tech, is usually cheaper and would incentivize that part of it. So, this would be to partner with the municipalities to do that planning. We did in the budget pass and Dennis is hiring a housing planner. So, and I know Marc Rider has had recent conversations on this

specific program, not even related to ARP, but just in general how we're going to proceed. So, I think he, I can get an update from Dennis and from Marc on that part of it, if anybody's interested. It was, it was a high dollar item, I think originally envisioned at like 800,000.

Chairman Criswell: Yeah, it has 800 in here. So...

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yeah.

Chairman Criswell: Any change would be great to know.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yeah, that, so, I need to, I think we need to get a level set in an update from them and see if that's changed. I think it has.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Okay, thank you very much.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yep.

Chairman Criswell: All right. Next one is funding an EMS response study.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Yes, yeah. So, we have formed an EMS taskforce to study the provision of all EMS services in the county. We're moving closer to hiring a consultant to help move this work along. It is not, it's gonna be even close to what was estimated. And, you know, I'll make the consideration with the Executive team on the appropriateness of ARPA versus other.

Chairman Criswell: Okay, that sounds great. And there's no dollar amount attached, just so you know, on this.

Deputy Executive Kelly: So, yeah. In the original plan, again, going back to this but not being wed to it was 2.4 million in Emergency Services. 2 million was envisioned as part of the soon to be proposed Government Operations and Emergency 911 Center. We, that's not part of any of our thinking and it hasn't been for some time. And then there was 400,000 for this countywide EMS study. It's not going to be that. So, it was originally...

Chairman Criswell: Significantly different.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Significantly different to the point of, you know, I'm revisiting the ask on that altogether.

Chairman Criswell: Okay, great. Sounds good. Um, the next one is Community Center for Youth recreation, and educational programs, and emergency warming and cooling, and energy response. Okay. So, I think this is really the Community Center for Youth Recreation. All right. Funding for programming for inmates, including parenting classes, job searching, money and budgeting. All right. Funding to provide assistance on properties due to foreclosure. Alright, funding to Youth Bureau to provide, to provide annual field trips to youth to regional mountain trails.

Legislator Hewitt: That was my proposal.

Chairman Criswell: Yeah. Legislator Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt: This is based on the youth department in the Town of Rochester and their successful field trip program. And I was skiing one time at Belleayre realizing that this is in our county, and it is a privilege sport that not everyone has access to. And so, it's a state-owned mountain and I thought if we can create a youth department-based program that helps get ski tickets and access to Mohawk Mountain, the Minnewaska trails, provide the funding for the shuttles, the food, and the, the entry to these parks, and possibly work with Wild Earth or another nature program to create lifelong experiences around education in the parks. So, this is a way for working with youth, youth programs, but also to embrace recreation.

Chairman Criswell: So, I love programs like this. I'm just curious what your thinking was on why ARPA funds?

Legislator Hewitt: Great question. I spoke to Vicky today and we're starting to think this could be a better long-term program for Ulster County, because the access component and the ability for many types of people to access this is part of the chaperone component and giving chaperones the ability to not only be parents, but any community member to join these trips. And so, Mike Baden is working with me on the budget items of what it takes in the Town of Rochester to create our annual field trips. And so, we have a lot of work to do still. That's why I didn't want to move forward quickly, to see if this can be an annual program.

Chairman Criswell: Great. Thank you very much. Appreciate that. All right. Next one. We've got funding with nonprofits provide green home retrofit program. We've talked about that already. Next, funding to housing organizations that assist with renovations and upgrades for smaller, like single or two family, to get them back into the housing rental market. All right, funding towards the educating, growing, and processing of industrial hemp. Yeah, Legislator Sperry.

Legislator Sperry: Sure, this is something that I've had conversations with Cornell about and they've done a little research and we're still like conversing about how to possibly move forward, but the latest idea or pitch is to get mobile decorticators, which are machines that break down the hemp so the farmers could go, if we could set up a hub somewhere in the county, where the decorticators are kept, the farmers could rent out or borrow the decorticators for a week or two, take it to their property, break down the hump for whatever use that they need it for. And then bring it back and then somebody else can borrow it. So that's kind of where we're leaning right now. I don't know if that's gonna be an ARPA ask. Chris, do you want to add anything to that?

Legislator Hewitt: Sure. I just mentioned that the decorticator turns the biomass from primarily the stems and the roots into herd and fiber and the herd can be used for many things, including plastic composites, the fiber can be turned into clothing, paper, all kinds of things like that. This machine doesn't work on the fuel component or the food component with proteins from the seeds. But what we're thinking is, it's very affordable to get a couple of mobile ones and three

years ago, when CBD became huge, many farmers rushed to grow into the flower of the plant and then they got stuck with all of the rest of the plant, which is actually valuable. And if they can process it with a mobile unit, they won't have to burn it like they did three years ago. So that's the rationale.

Chairman Criswell: Great, thank you. All right, funding to UPAC for the arts education program. I actually don't think that this is appropriate for the ARPA funding, but it is something that I'm going to continue to propose that we support our arts in the county, especially UPAC, they do so much work with our youth, and I think it's really important and so I'll propose that in some other fashion. We've talked about the film training, production training. We've talked about that. And then we also talked about the processing, the industrial meat facility. So, we've hit all the items on here. What I would like to recommend is I'm going to send the committee an email to have three questions to think about. One is to look at the priorities list again, and really come up with what are the priorities. Looking at the information now that we've looked at with other counties, what they're spending on, what we've spent on but haven't spent on. So, let's, let's compile. I'm going to ask each Legislator to compile their own priorities list of, even just areas, you know, we need to fund this area, youth workforce development, whatever it is. I'm also going to ask you to think about do we want to try and fund a couple of large projects? Or do we want to try and spread this into several smaller projects? Because we have to, we need at this point now, we need to think about how we're spending this money and I think that that's a very pertinent question. And then lastly, I'm going to ask about, are we going to try and continue funding those projects that we've already funded, which are the red items on the sheet? It's the vaccine PODs, the Nonprofit Program, the Small Business Program, and we're probably already not going to do the Constituent Services Navigator program, if what Deputy Executive Kelly was saying. So, just think about those programs that we would have to commit longer term dollars to and do we want to do that or do not want to do that? Because that would certainly, again, free up a little bit of money. So, those are my big questions that I'll send out to you to try and have some answers back by the next, since you don't have any scoring to do, you need a little homework project, right? For the next, next week and a half. I used to be a teacher; you know that right? So, it comes out every once in a while.

Legislator Sperry: Teachers are overrated.

Chairman Criswell: Teachers are so overrated.

Legislator Sperry: I am one.

Chairman Criswell: I know you are. So, again, I just want to reiterate my great thanks to you all for all the efforts you've been putting into this, and I thank the ARPA team. Chris, I didn't thank you, you were not here but thank you for your work, and Comptroller Gallagher and your staff as well. Alicia, I want to thank you for the work that you've been putting into this. So, thank you, if there's anybody I missed, I'm sorry. But we're spending this money wisely. I feel really proud of what we're doing, especially when we look at it and compared to other counties. I feel like we're doing a really, really great job and we're going to have deep long-term impact on our community. Legislator Levine.

Legislator Levine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had one quick question. Going over the pie chart, No, the, not the pie chart. The, the graph, the graph page with from all the other municipalities, I was just wondering if it will be possible to, I'm looking for the information as to see if, it's the information on the chart regarding how much like as a percentage of each. I know, I know, it's a percentage of each county spending so far that they've spent on each program that that's in here. But is it possible if we can find out the information, how much each county was allocated? And how can, how like far into their pot that they are already? If that information is available to be disseminated?

Deputy Clerk Feaster: I can absolutely make that change.

Chairman Criswell: Great.

Legislator Levine: Thank you.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Legislator Sperry

Legislator Sperry: I just wanted to tell Deputy Executive, Deputy Executive Kelly that we are having another meeting with Cornell this Friday at 1pm. If you are available, I can send you the Zoom link.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Please do. I really want to be involved in that one. So, thank you very much.

Legislator Sperry: You're welcome.

Deputy Executive Kelly: Can I interrupt the Chair?

Chairman Criswell: Absolutely.

Deputy Executive Kelly: I want to thank the Chair and his committee members, because I have to say that this has been, it's a hard process. It's once in a lifetime type money but being in this committee and the decorum and everything that's going on, it's a lot of hard decisions and hard conversations. But in this committee, I have to say that we've always done it respectfully so to all of you, and I really do appreciate it. So, thank you for making this constructive.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you. Thank you very much. All right. If there's no more questions, I just call for a motion to adjourn. Great. Legislator Corcoran. A second, please.

Legislator Sperry: Second.

Chairman Criswell: Legislator Sperry. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Chairman Criswell: Any opposed? Great. Have a great night. We'll see you again.

Legislator Levine: Have a great night everybody.

Chairman Criswell: Thank you.

Time: 6:59 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster

Minutes Approved: June 1, 2022