

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

DATE & TIME: October 26, 2022 – 5:00
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building,
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Peter Criswell, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber Feaster and Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Aaron J. Levine, and Megan Sperry
ABSENT: Legislators Thomas Corcoran, Jr. and Craig V. Lopez
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Phil Erner, Kathy Nolan, and Laura Petit; Director of
ARP Administration Nate Litwin; ARP Administration Ashlee
Long and Molly Scott; Comptroller March Gallagher.

- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM**
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Motion No. 1: To **APPROVE** the Minutes of October 12, 2022

Motion Made By: Legislator Levine

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Levine, and Sperry

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 3

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes **APPROVED**

Chair Criswell gave the members a financial update

ARPA Savings Added Back in:

- Emergency Management – Vaccine PODS \$500,000 will be covered with the extension of FEMA COVID Disaster Funds
- Enterprise West -- \$170,000 was covered in sales negotiations
- Roughly \$92,000 in 2021 attrition savings from the ARP Recovery & Resilience division
- Elizabeth Street Sale was \$3 under the approved value

New estimate for remaining ARP Funding is **\$1,489,206** if everything presented is approved.

Budget Notes:

- Constituent Service Navigator Division is not proposed to be funded with ARPA in 2023. This was a Legislative Budget Amendment in the prior year.
- Crisis Stabilization Center is proposed at \$3,000,000, not \$3,284,900 as adopted in 2022.

Chair Criswell reviewed the Legislative Top Priorities not yet presented. The committee discussed how to proceed with remaining ARPA funding including large vs. small projects; looking for projects that may be less “staff intensive”; the importance of limiting ARPA projects to projects that may not be funded in the traditional budget items; if preference should be given to “seed money” for programs or sustainable “bricks and mortar” projects; and the need to keep and eye on state funding opportunities and be more strategic with ARPA funding.

Legislative Top Priorities Not Yet Presented:

- Food Securities
 1. Community Kitchens (2) Committee estimated this will be about \$500,000 and is looking to partner with Community Action in Kingston and is seeking another partner somewhere in southern Ulster.
 2. Meat Processing Facility – Committee discussed various facilities including full service vs. packing only, mobile units; other facilities in the region.
- Workforce Development Programming
 1. Film – how to ensure support is equitable
 2. Nursing, EMT, other
- Further funding for municipalities (generators, traffic, other infrastructure)
- Bus Shelters – should be removed from the list. A capital project for Bus Shelters is in the proposed 2023 capital budget for \$250,000
- Further support for farmers & food security for residents by purchasing CSAs
- Housing for Farmers
- Competitive housing program – members were not clear on what this was referring to.
- Broadband – Comptroller Gallagher discussed

Resolution No. 538—Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$90,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Communities For Local Power Inc. – Department Of Finance – ARPA

Resolution Summary: This is part of the Green Home Retrofit (Capital project No. 642) the legislature previously approved - and will execute a \$90,000 contract with Communities for Local Power to administer the workforce development portion of the project

Motion No. 2: **To DISCUSS Resolution No. 538**
Motion Made By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Levine, and Sperry

Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 539 — Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$75,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock, Inc – Department Of Finance – ARPA

Resolution Summary: This is part of the Food Security and Access Project the legislature previously approved. This is not a Capital Project. It's located within the ARP Recovery & Resilience Division's budget. This Resolution will execute a \$75,000 contract with Family of Woodstock to administer the program.

Motion No. 3: **To DISCUSS Resolution No. 539**

Motion Made By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Levine, and Sperry
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 540 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$221,430.60 Entered Into By The County – Legal Services of the Hudson Valley – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This is part of the intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Ulster project (Capital Project 607) the legislature previously approved to extend the water and sewer lines to the Quality Inn site on Route 28.

Motion No. 4: **To DISCUSS Resolution No. 540**

Motion Made By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Levine, and Sperry
Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 541 – Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program – Amending Capital Project No. 604 – ARPA Water And Sewer Infrastructure – Amending The 2022 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This will increase funding to the ARPA Water & Sewer Matching Program by \$1 million bringing the total to \$6 million.

Motion No. 5: **To DISCUSS Resolution No. 541**

Motion Made By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: Mr. Litwin reported 17 projects from 15 municipalities were awarded with the original \$5 million. He anticipates a shortfall of \$300,000-\$400,000 that could still be used toward the program should the legislature choose to allow this.

Legislator Petit discussed the need for water and sewer infrastructure and how integral it is to any housing proposals, especially affordable housing.

Chair Criswell noted that at the use of ARPA funding for the category of water and sewer represented 23% of the ARPA expenditures, the largest percentage of the funding to date. He recognized the importance of this category but reminded the committee that the legislature has other priorities that also deserve additional funding or have not been addressed yet.

Legislator Nolan suggested that all municipalities are in need of infrastructure improvements and perhaps there is some way to ensure any additional funding for water/sewer infrastructure is earmarked for affordable housing only.

Legislator Petit noted that some municipalities have local zoning that includes requirements to address affordable housing and proposed those municipalities could be given preference for this funding.

A discussion ensued on how to ensure affordable housing projects need for infrastructure is addressed using public funds.

Chair Criswell noted that Resolution No. 541 doesn't have any concrete language to address these affordable housing concerns and wanted to allow time for more discussion and/or specific affordable housing projects in need of this infrastructure.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

New Business:

Chair Criswell told the committee the quarterly ARPA report was filed with the US Dept of Treasury on Thursday, October 20, 2022 by Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick. (Per Resolution #505 of 2021) Chair Criswell also discussed the liability account and detail transactions out of the County’s Financial System for the time period. These are both in the OneDrive file for tonight’s meeting.

Chair Criswell asked Mr. Litwin to provide a program tracker for the November meeting.

Chair Criswell opened a discussion about reducing the ARPA meetings to once a month going forward. There was a consensus agreement. The next ARPA meeting will be November 30.

Old Business:

Update on Resolution No. 400 (Agricultural Crisis Relief) said it is still being “tweaked”. She anticipates a budget amendment relating to a new position. She is hopeful that Resolution No. 400 will pass in Ways and Means this month for a vote of the full legislature.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Sperry

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

No. of Votes in Favor: 3

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 6:18 PM

Respectfully submitted: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: November 30, 2022