

**JUNE 29, 2021 SESSION
OF THE
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Walworth County Board Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 3:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present, either in person or remotely: Vice-Chair Jerry A. Grant, Brian Holt, Kathy Ingersoll, Daniel G. Kilkenny, Kenneth H. Monroe, Susan M. Pruessing, Joseph H. Schaefer, Ryan G. Simons, Rick Stacey, David A. Weber and Chair Nancy Russell. A quorum was established.

○ **American Rescue Plan Act Funding: Approaches and Strategies for Expenditures and Investments, Including Priority Programs for 2021**

County Administrator Mark W. Luberda briefly explained that the objective for this meeting was to discuss possible programs to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Luberda referenced specific programs that are more time sensitive in nature, and may benefit from being considered sooner. He proceeded to detail the following Priority Programs:

● **Mental Health Support for Students and Schools**

Luberda stated Mental Health Support for Students and Schools is an initiative partnering with Walworth County school districts to identify and address mental health stressors that students may be experiencing with the return to in-person education. Luberda has designated Health and Human Services (HHS) to collaborate with school administrators and principals, to determine if ARPA funds can provide for higher level technical or program development support. Supervisor Pruessing voiced concerns with the amount of funds being suggested, and what level of help so little funding could realistically provide. Chair Russell, along with Supervisors Weber and Ingersoll, all spoke in favor of pursuing this initiative. Luberda cautioned that given the number of school districts involved it may not be possible to develop all pieces for the start of school, but the sooner planning begins the sooner programs can be implemented.

● **Broadband Expansion**

Luberda shared that the Public Service Commission (PSC) has \$100,000 in grants available with a July 27, 2021 application deadline. Luberda presented a coverage map displaying underserved broadband areas within the county. He also noted that this is the largest round of funding that PSC has offered. Supervisor Holt requested more information in regards to Edge Broadband for the July meeting. Luberda stated staff will take the time to put together more information to present in July.

● **Non-Profit Social Service Organizations**

Luberda explained that during the pandemic many small non-profit organizations saw decreased donations from the public, which has had a negative impact all around. Acting Director-HHS and Superintendent of Institutions Carlo Nevicosi stated that Open Arms Free Clinic is an invaluable partner to the County providing primary and dental care to anyone in need. Veteran Service Officer Nathan Bond shared that there are zero private practice dentist offices in Walworth County that accept Medicaid. He stated that much of the veteran population in the county use Open Arms for dental care. Luberda's intent is to obtain authorization in July for \$100,000 in funds to each United Way and Open Arms; with a statement of support for future funding.

- Intergovernmental Cooperation Council Request

Luberda stated that at the last Intergovernmental Cooperation Council Meeting (ICC) there was strong interest from local communities relative to securing a vendor to advise on the ARPA monies being received at the municipal level.

- CNA Wage Adjustment for LHCC

Luberda shared that the Lakeland Health Care Center Board (LHCC) of Trustees was very much in favor of moving forward as quickly as possible with premium and wage adjustments for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs.) Luberda stated that if the Board was agreeable to expediting this process, a Special Joint Meeting of the LHCC Board of Trustees and Human Resources Committee would be called prior to the next County Board Meeting. Nevicosi stated this would put LHCC at the top of the pay range in the area. Luberda noted that ARPA also allows for retroactive pay and that some level of retroactivity will likely be in the final proposal.

Luberda stated that typically at Committee Of The Whole the Board cannot take any action that would render a decision; although the Board may make recommendations to themselves. Luberda requested a motion which would be a clear recommendation to staff and the Chair to add discussed items to the July agenda.

Supervisor Stacey spoke in favor of recommending the items be added to the July County Board Agenda. Discussion then focused on the 911 upgrade having been left out of possible funding.

Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management Michael Cotter reiterated to the Board that any action taken during the Committee of the Whole meeting is not binding; and he clarified that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss items due to the short timeline. Luberda stated that staff will work diligently to compile as much information as possible prior to the July 13 County Board Meeting and that any Supervisors with questions may reach out to him at any time.

Supervisor Weber offered a motion, second by Supervisor Ingersoll, to recommend that statements of support or specific proposals for the six items discussed be considered critical needs and placed on the July County Board Agenda for discussion or action.

- Mental Health Support for Students and Schools
- Broadband Expansion
- Small, Non-Profit Social Service Organization Grants (United Way)
- Open Arms Free Clinic
- Technical Support with ARPA Funding Use and the Revenue Loss Formula for Municipalities
- CNA Wages

All Supervisors supported the recommendation allowing Chair Russell to place the six items on the July 13, 2021 County Board Agenda.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Monroe, seconded by Vice Chair Grant, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Prepared By: Jennifer Stinnett, Administrative Assistant

Submitted By: Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
COUNTY OF WALWORTH)

I, Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors for the June 29, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting.