



*Robert L. Andrews  
District 1*

*Richard R. Dutremble  
Chairperson  
District 2*

*Allen R. Sicard  
Vice-Chairperson  
District 3*

*Donna L. Ring  
District 4*

*Richard Clark  
District 5*

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**Meeting Minutes for Public Hearing on June 16, 2021  
ARP Funding 2:00PM  
Held at the Sanford Vaccination Clinic, 1364 Main Street, Sanford, ME**

Commissioners Present: Richard Dutremble, Donna Ring, Richard Clark, Al Sicard, Robert Andrews. County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Linda Corliss were also present.

Commissioner Chairman Dutremble brought the meeting to order. The Commissioners introduced themselves.

County Manager Greg Zinser explained the ARP funding.

Sally Manninen, Director Choose to Be Healthy Program addressed the Board and stated that this program through York Hospital serves nine communities in Southern York County. There are also three coalitions that serve York County with substance abuse and mental health issues. This program has three staff and nearly one hundred staff and partners. They also work with the court system, schools, etc. They are part of the coordinating council public health organization with Adam Hardwig. Ms. Manninen continued that they rarely have funding. We usually do this as volunteers. Her testimony is attached as record of these minutes. Sally Manninen stated that it is unfortunate that these monies cannot be put into a trust to continuously help to build up our workforce for mental health.

Chief Fire and EMS Administrator, Rod Hooper spoke about a Paramedic Intercept Program attached as This program would bring paramedics on- line around the county. It would take some of the burdens from some of the cities who have mutual aid agreements. He stated that his proposal is for a five- year program. This would be for a pilot program to see what the demands are. Trauma Intervention Program- Chief Hooper continued that this is a national organization that provides counseling and mental health assistance at the onset of a traumatic experience. These programs work to have a goal to have a counselor on scene within 30 minutes of a call. Their track record is perfect. Their fee is roughly 15 cents per capita. Chief Hooper added that he is asking to fund this program for three years.

Hazmat Team Air Monitoring/Respiratory Protection-Current equipment is antiquated and in some instances, beyond repair. Therefore, he is asking for upgrades.

EMS Simulator Lab Equipment- Chief Hooper explained that he is working with York County Community College to train paramedics in Wells. The Lab cost is about \$180,000 to \$200,000. There are programmable mannequins.

Rick Millard of Saco stated that the issue he is addressing is the \$223 million in tourist income shortfall. There are less than 30 sand beaches in Maine. Twenty- eight are located in York County. He is asking for a \$1.5 million egg beater suction dredge owned by the county that could address improvements for the infrastructure of all the beaches.

David Plavin of Saco who is the VP of SOS Saco Bay also advocated for the purchase of the dredge. He explained that it is known to have environmental benefits. Beaches are losing sand. The ARP Funds allow aid that impacts businesses, tourism etc.

Stephanie Carver from Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission submitted a letter along with York County Community Action that outlined what they are offering (attached as record to these minutes). She added that SMPDC is here to offer support for the county. Ms. Carver added that SMPDC does regional planning and has also received CARES Act funds and have allocated those funds. We offer any kind of partnership that we can provide.

Donna Dwyer from My Place Teen Center with a new location in Saco addressed the Board. She stated that the Center has been in Westbrook for 23 years and is now expanding to York County. They want to renovate St. Andre's church and restore it to its former glory as a teen center for kids 10-18. It would be open 25 hours a week year- round. This Teen Center will provide academic support, life and job skills as well as mental health support. 10,000 meals will be served. We are seeking \$1.5 million from the Biddeford Housing Authority to help us renovate the church. Food insecurity, multi-generational cohabitation, transitional housing and teen center are items we provide. We have a cross sector of partnerships. Bricks and mortar are what we are seeking assistance on, explained Ms. Dwyer.

Guy Gagnon from Biddeford Housing explained that they are trying to help with housing issues and all types of populations that need it. He continued that the focus the last few years has been for our youth. This would be a new program for youth coming out of foster care. We would receive in kind labor and materials from the community. Commissioner Clark asked Mr. Gagnon to expand on the housing element. How many people will it serve and what age range? Mr. Gagnon replied that it would serve 16-23 years old through HUD through the nature of a voucher program. We will have 12 units plus common space. The Teen Center request is really what we are here for, explained Mr. Gagnon. Commissioner Sicard asked Donna Dwyer that since Westbrook is her hub is she asking Cumberland County for funding? Ms. Dwyer replied that they own the property. Cumberland county funding will go towards programing.

Guy Gagnon explained that they should be called Biddeford Saco Housing authority as they service every town touching those two towns.

Donna Dwyer stated that their philosophy has been any kid from anywhere can receive their services for free. We anticipate we will have the surrounding areas for sure.

Commissioner Clark asked if they currently offer youth housing in Westbrook?

Donna Dwyer stated they do not, but, we will have a partnership with Southern Maine Affordable Housing. We just have been working on finding the funding.

County Manager Zinser asked if the HUD voucher system is limited to 16-23 year olds? He asked further if they could give a better understanding? What happens with the younger generation? Guy Gagnon replied that the need is there. Our program addresses kids aging out of foster care.

Larissa Crockett, Town Manager from Wells addressed the Board and stated that she hopes that this money will be used on a regional basis.

She added that she was in attendance to toss support from the municipal side. She continued that paramedic training AND TIPS program are desperately needed. This program is very vibrant in Scarborough. The dredging plan would be fantastic and she stated that she hears about this frequently.

Sally Manninen also spoke about My Place Teen Center and stated that they have zero to one social service agency in our area and NO teen centers, no Boys and Girls Club.

Lori Smith, Kennebunkport Town Manager, also co-chair of York County Manager's Association thanked the Commissioners for reaching out. There are many needs. She suggested that partnering with municipalities with towns in York County. There are some similarities some deal with regarding economic and infrastructure needs. York County is poised to be a leader in the State, said Ms. Smith. She added that she has been following Aroostook County and that they are also working with the State to leverage all funds.

Steve Buck, Sanford City Manager spoke in support of Chief Hooper's ideas. He added that he believed they would have tremendous positive effects. He complimented Chief Hooper's work and the York County EMA authority.

Manager Buck continued to state that he struggles to see how the Commissioners will qualify some of the requests today even though they are well needed projects.

He spoke of the issue of homelessness- and that they work with Sanford Housing Authority. The number of beds in York County is grossly insufficient. He would ask that the Commissioners fund more bed capacity. He also stated that he supports further consideration of Layman Way and other such programs. Mr. Buck added that having a licensed clinical social worker into our police forces is needed. Funding assistance to put that into the police departments is important. Work force housing is needed but Mr. Buck replied that he is not sure it would fit in this funding. He continued that there is also a need for transportation infrastructure. There is not enough housing once workforce is here. (In York County) we have extraordinary construction costs that are evident. This has an impact on our housing and rental costs. People immigrating out of the cities and coming into our State. We are seeing a 12 to 15% increase in tax assessments, stated the Sanford City Manager.

Commissioner Sicard asked Manager Buck for his words of wisdom in regards to broadband.

Manager Buck replied that it was one of the most harrowing experiences of his career. There was the difficulty of fighting with the legacy providers. He added that in Sanford they have worked for 10 years and now have a 45- mile network that is functioning well. He added that a regional cost would be difficult but that he would welcome the chance to work on a regional program. Manager Buck stated that he struggles with fiber to premise being cost-effective.

Commissioner Sicard replied that 12 of the 13 towns have that in their proposals. Governor Mills is sitting on \$100 million for broadband and she hasn't said where it's going yet.

Roger Norman of the Alumni Association in Biddeford explained that his organization provides scholarships to youths in Biddeford and Saco as well as to sports teams. They have given out over \$20,000 in scholarships and grants to area youth sports team. Bingo was their main source of revenue, but we had to shut down during Covid, explained Mr. Norman. This is our plea as to why we would like to get some support. Mr. Norman asked the Commissioners what the timeline for application process is? He also asked for the mechanics of the Commissioners' decisions. Commissioner Dutremble replied that the Commissioners will address that issue at the end.

Gary Lane, resident of Springvale for 30 years stated that he supports Chief Hooper's ideas. He asked if the homeless could be put into Sanford mills?

York County has one shelter that houses 30 people.

Gina Bronski from the Choose To Be Healthy coalition addressed the Board and stated that she was a guidance councilor for 15 years. She wants to put a plug in for working with kids with unresolved trauma. She would like to see staff of pre-k through 12th grade be trauma trained.

County Manager Zinser informed all of where the Commissioners go from here as a county. There is another public hearing next week. In the month of July, the Commissioners will aggregate ideas and develop categories and then decide and go through guidance that we have as to what would qualify and

what wouldn't qualify. We have some items to go through in our own buildings, stated the County Manager. There might be an application procedure possibly, but we haven't discussed this yet. We also need to discuss how the public will find out about the application process or decisions? For now, we are just soliciting feedback, explained the County Manager.

He added that he anticipates we will publish notices, online via Facebook and our website.

County Manager Zinser also informed all to review the guidance documents in Section 9901. There are strings attached to this money. Also, there are items that we may determine cannot be funded. We are looking at some major facility improvements on air quality aspects in some of our buildings, stated the County Manager.

Commissioner Clark suggested that anyone that is not on an e-mail list submit their contact information to Kathy to be kept up to date.

County Manager Zinser added that anyone can also follow up to us in writing. Please get something to us by the end of July.

It will depend on the nature of the project being proposed how we determine how quickly we will disperse those funds. We will be cautious before we earmark the second round of funding as we don't have it now and won't receive it until next year.

Funds have to be expended by December 31, 2024. There is a question on perhaps having money obligated.

Hearing ended at 3:12 p.m.