COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING

October 13, 2021

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At a Workshop of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 A. D. at 3:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble Richard Clark Robert Andrews Allen Sicard Donna Ring

County Manager Gregory Zinser was present at the meeting.

10-13-21 ITEM

1 TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS REMAINING ARP FUNDING REQUESTS

County Manager Zinser began the review of the requests with **South Berwick and North Berwick Water District** – Commissioner Dutremble stated that while it is a worthwhile project, how do the Commissioners distinguish what city/town gets funding? Usually, these types of projects are in their own budgets. Commissioner Sicard stated that there is also State and Federal sewer and water money available. He directed that he would wish them well and move on. County Manager Zinser asked for clarification from the Commissioners on the water projects, asking if they are saying no to all including the City of Saco. Commissioner Ring added Waterboro also asked for money for their water district. County Manager Zinser replied, not in writing. Commissioner Sicard directed the County Manager to send them a letter thanking them for coming to the public hearing regarding their request.

Affordable Housing- County Manager Zinser explained that engineering and code review on our jail property has begun. At some point, we will have to get into a land leasing agreement with Sanford Housing Authority.

Fair Tide- County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that they heard from Emily Flinkstrom from Fairtide last week and are waiting for further information.

Commissioner Sicard recommended sending those who wrote letters of support for Fair Tide and other housing issues that we are working with Fairtide.

Volunteers Of America-Commissioner Ring stated that they do our pre-trial. Commissioner Sicard add that they do housing in Saco. Commissioner Ring replied that they are very active in central and southern Maine and that she wouldn't mind hearing a little more from them. County Manager Zinser reminded all that their proposal sounds similar to the TIPS program mentioned at one of the public hearings. The County Manager added that the mental health committee set up will deal with these items. Commissioner Sicard added that they do get a lot of Federal funds. He proposed sending them a letter to thank them for their efforts and to tell them we are working on this and funding a teen center in Biddeford.

James Nimon-Sanford Springvale growth council director- County Manager Zinser stated that his proposal was for broadband and housing. The County Manager commented that in a recent survey in York County, he believed that broadband didn't make it very high on the list.

Commissioner Sicard advised sending him a letter and inform him we are working on housing with Sanford Housing and on the topic of broadband, we are waiting for Governor Mills as she has funds set aside.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that MCCA is working with the State on a lot of these projects. Commissioner Clark added that the State is asking for additional funds.

The County Manager clarified that this "ask" is for non-entitlement cities and towns that were not direct recipients (of ARP money) and had to ask for funds.

Commissioner Clark commented that no one from Northern York County came to us requesting any funding for affordable housing.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that SMRPDC works with communities to put affordable housing in all areas of York County.

Social Services

Youth Connection- Commissioner Dutremble stated that this center is ½ mile from where the new teen center will be so this is a duplication of services. They also do good work but are in the same area. Commissioner Sicard recommended sending them a letter to make them aware of My Place Teen Center.

County Manager Zinser added that they do some summer programming but it looks like this time of year they are only open one day a week. Commissioner Dutremble added that they also renovated their building and run a bicycle shop.

St. Louis Alumni Association-Commissioner Dutremble recused himself. Commissioner Ring stated that this is a great organization but there are lots of other schools that give out scholarships. Commissioner Dutremble stated that they do BEANO and other events to raise money. They received about \$1 million from the sale of their building.

Commissioner Sicard directed that a letter be sent to them thanking them for their work in their community and wish them well in the future.

Choose to Be Healthy Coalition-County Manager Zinser reminded the Board that they have requested them to be here next week. He explained that they are looking roughly for \$375,000 over a 3 year period. We see the effects of drugs and alcohol because of what we do.

York Hospital Recovery Center is requesting funding for detox and recovery, explained the County Manager. They will also be here next week per your request. He continued that it looks like they are requesting around \$680,000 over a 3- year period.

Knights of Columbus- County Manager Zinser explained that they are asking for \$15,000 to be able to continue with their programming.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that he had already told them no. Commissioner Sicard directed they also be sent a letter.

Janet Drew has sent in letters regarding diversion programs, explained County Manager Zinser. Commissioner Andrews suggested including her on some of those committees so she feels we are at least being responsive to her. The County Manager replied that it is up to the Commissioners but that they are not really here to discuss this tonight.

Commissioner Ring asked when do we anticipate committees starting to meet?

County Manager Zinser responded that he did send letters to the organizations. Part of the process is to create partnerships. Letters were also sent to police and fire chief's associations, he continued. He estimated the committees to start to meet maybe towards the middle or end of November.

VERA Institute of Justice- County Manager Zinser informed all that they are requesting \$4.5 million. Commissioner Clark commented that the State has to come to grips with juvenile incarcerations. He added that this is really not our stuff and that he doesn't see this as something we can do. While a worthy project it is not a direct county concern.

York County Shelter Programs, Inc.-County Manager Zinser stated that they are proposing a York County Safety net similar to Fair Tide's proposal for a community hub. Commissioner Sicard asked if they are plugged in to the transportation? County Manager Zinser responded that there are a few different things going on with bussing and a route system. "On demand" is more specific to social service agencies getting their clients from point A to B. He continued that he doesn't know if busing would work. The County Manager stated that the County did give the shelter 3 or 4 cars at the beginning of the summer. Commissioner Sicard asked if they need vans? If so, they'd have to hire drivers. Commissioner Sicard stated to make sure all non-profits are plugged in to the transportation as this moves on. He added that people do need to get together and work together. Commissioner Clark stated that he understands the concern about overlap, but, keep in mind that a social service center in Kittery will not help those in rural areas in York County. Some of their problems are transportation. We take for granted that we have a car. Transportation is a real problem for some folks who need help. You have to put this stuff where people can get to it, continued Commissioner Clark. So, you may have to do it more than once. Commissioner Ring stated that perhaps the Commissioners should ask them to come in to give us more detail. Commissioner Sicard stated that maybe Megan's input could help the transportation folks. This could be a game changer if done right. Transportation is a key piece of what we are trying to do in York County, stated Commissioner Sicard.

Commissioner Ring suggested that the County Manager follow up with her. Commissioner Sicard agreed that they need to get an update and make her aware that we have had one brief transportation meeting.

TRANSPORTATION- Laura Vittorioso sent in a letter with suggestions including transportation for those who are vision impaired, explained the County Manager. Commissioner Ring directed the County Manager to respond to her that we are looking into transportation issues.

SMRPD- County Manager Zinser explained that their letter offers us assistance.

York County Community Action-Barbara Crieder's letter, explained the County Manager is letting us know about broadband and her other letter is informational and offering us assistance.

STSolutions (Al Shutz) The County Manager explained that we heard from him last week.

Commissioner Clark stated that most of what the Commissioners talk about with transportation is going to rely on York County Community Action. The county is not going to run a transportation company, continued Commissioner Clark. He commented that he thinks the Commissioners should urge these organizations to sit down together and talk about what they think they can do and come to us with a proposal. He added that he is in favor of supporting transportation systems in York County but that he doesn't think the county can plan that. Someone has to bring it to us. They are in the business, we are not. Give them a deadline to get back to us with a proposal. County Manager Zinser replied that he can send them all a letter. Commissioner Clark stated that we can offer them space to meet in.

Commissioner Ring stated that they were pretty clear that the County wasn't going into the business. Commissioner Sicard stated that they were coming from very different places. It is a lot different talking about social service agencies. He suggested having Megan (Gene Gendron from the York County Shelter Programs, Inc.) into the group as a representative of the non-profits. Commissioner Sicard added that if we have to create an entity to start this, he is okay but not being directly involved. They need to bring a collective proposal to the County. Commissioner Dutremble stated that every entity should not say that they should be singled out. It needs to be a unified proposal. Commissioner Dutremble added that he knows from working in the city of Biddeford that this has been a problem for a long time.

EMS- County Manager Zinser explained that a lot of this will come up in the training center conversations and behavioral health. Chief Hooper understands where we are heading. The County Manager will send letters to EMS supporters listed to tell them what we are up to. Commissioner Sicard stated there will need to be discussions with Chief Hooper regarding the training facility as to operationally, how it will move forward. They need a plan to operate it. County Manager Zinser said that will be part of the committee's task that to develop plans for its operation. Commissioner Sicard replied that needs to be flushed out before it comes back. Otherwise, he stated, that he is not comfortable supporting any of it.

Dredge- The County Manager reminded the Commissioners that they will be hearing from those folks next week.

Town of Kennebunk- The County Manager explained that they sent a detailed list of projects and that he will send them a thank you.

Biddeford Food Pantry- County Manager Zinser stated that they had requested \$26,629 for solar panels and an additional \$20,000 for operational expenses.

Commissioner Ring asked if most towns have their own food pantries? County Manager Zinser replied that a lot of towns do. Commissioner Ring replied that this is relatively short money so she would keep this in mind. Commissioner Ring suggested maybe give money to various food pantries throughout the county. She added that there is a lot of short money(requests) in here. Affordable housing, detox, social services and transportation and the dredge are the items we are mainly focused on. Commissioner Clark replied that they are big ticket items.

County Manager Zinser stated that if the Board wants to talk about the food pantries, maybe looking at the towns in your districts (would be helpful). He reminded the Commissioners that some towns are stating they don't know what they are going to do with their money. This gentleman was not aware that towns and cities are getting their own money.

County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that they talked about in the very beginning, we are saying no right now. As the process goes on, maybe some of this stuff will go down (in cost) and additional funds may become available. Maybe another opportunity to review some of these past projects or another project may present themselves, stated the County Manager.

2 ADJOURN

Workshop adjourned at 4:17 p.m.