

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lee Hearn, Chairman
Edward Gibbons, Vice Chairman
Eric K. Maxwell
Charles W. Oddo
Charles D. Rousseau



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

ACTION AGENDA

Special Called

May 6, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Lee Hearn called the May 6, 2021 Special Called Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation

Chairman Hearn led the audience and Board in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Eric Maxwell moved to accept the agenda and to add public comments immediately after the acceptance of the agenda. Commissioner Charles Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following made comments: Dawn Oparah, Angela Bean, Jennifer Young, Arnie Geiger, Jay Coston, Alice Jones, Arthur Culpepper, Deb Presley-Christensen, Michael Mumper and Iris Blevins.

DISCUSSION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021:

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 allocation was \$1.9 trillion. He stated that the ARPA had little to do with COVID, but more to do with human services, health services and mental services. The ARPA was signed on March 11, 2021, a portion was for state and local government to receive \$350 billion. The County's share was \$22,191,248 in direct federal aid and is based on the county's population. The funds are scheduled to be deposited by the end of May 2021. Fifty percent of the funds will be deposited and the other 50%, a year and a day later. Mr. Rapson reiterated that the ARPA funds were a one-time revenue source. He stated that one of the reasons that the County was fiscally sound was because we use reoccurring revenues to balance reoccurring expenditures. We do not use one-time revenues to balance the budget. He stated that the cities were also receiving an allocation from these funds. There were four categories for use of funds; 1) replacement of revenue, 2) the COVID-19 expenditures associated with negative economic impact including assistance to non-profits 3) premium pay to essential employees and 4) investments in water, sewer and broadband. Funds cannot be used toward pension funds and funds cannot be used to directly or indirectly offset tax reduction or delay a tax or tax increase. Mr. Rapson stated that staff sent a list of questions for clarity on how the funds could be spent. He stated that staff had no more clarification than what was presented in the Act. He stated that a lot of the guidance given at this point, was the same guidance that the County used. The local jurisdictions should be cognizant of any other additional efforts. He stated that it was a nice way of saying, if the federal government had \$35 billion for rental assistance, maybe the County should not "dip its toe" in rental assistance. Mr. Rapson stated that there were some shovel ready projects. He stated that with shovel-ready projects that are

capital improvement projects or road projects, that may be eligible under the \$2 trillion infrastructural grant, then it probably did not make a lot of sense to use funds from the ARPA funds.

Mr. Rapson stated that staff was seeking clarity what type of project would be eligible as a capital investment project. The focus of the ARPA funds was on health and human services, broadband, water infrastructure and sewer systems. Transportation had been mentioned and there was a component for economic development type projects. Mr. Rapson stated that staff concentrated on the core services. He stated that the County was not seeing the same type shortfalls as Fulton, DeKalb, and Cobb Counties. He stated that we recognized what the environment was, the impact of COVID and forecasted what the shortfalls would be in the different areas. The County's total revenues, budget-to-budget, was only short \$750,000 overall. He stated that was impressive. He stated that the County received a lot of CARES funds reimbursed for public safety, so he was not attempting to recreate that "apple". He stated that he did not "dip our toe" in paying for essential pay. Some counties are doing one-time contribution to employees due to COVID. Broadband services are typically provided within the city limits, so he did not enter it into the equation. Mr. Rapson continued that when the County received the CARES money, there was discussion about rental or utility abatement, the Board did approve to do a delay in payment for the utilities. He stated that the Water System was seeing the same number of cutoffs as the years when there was not COVID. Rental assistance was not something that the County provided. There is no policy or program in place. Staff did not look to implement a program without Board direction.

Mr. Rapson stated that in his recommendation he was not proposing any community aid. He stated that he did not propose assisting non-profits because the Board decided not to fund non-profits almost two years ago. He stated that there was only one non-profit that had a relationship with the County and that was Promise Place through fees associated with the Justice Center. He stated that the money for Fayette Senior Services was through a relationship that Fayette Senior Services had with Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). He stated that the cost for Meals-on-Wheels and transportation was inherited. The American Rescue Plan Act has a large amount of money for housing, utilities, food assistance, public health, mental health, and others. He stated that he was a big fan of non-profits and that they had always done a great job. He stated that with the \$22 million from ARPA he focused on the core county services: public safety, health services and water infrastructure.

He gave a review of the proposed projects.

After further discussion, Commissioner Rousseau moved to table the discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 to the May 13, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that although he may have seen this information in some format, it was not put in a format like this, for this specific use of funds. He stated that the residents stated that they would like to have seen the information prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that out of respect, he would vote to table. He stated that he would have preferred to vote.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to table the discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 to the May 13, 2021 meeting. No second required. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Maxwell moved to adjourn. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.