

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

MINUTES 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:

Dawn Oparah, stated that she was the Executive Director of Fayette FACTOR. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Mrs. Oparah stated that the relief funding was a wonderful thing for the county, especially for the human services organizations. She stated the human service organizations fill the gap in human needs in the county through their vision and mission, they raise money to support those visions and mission, they provide million of dollars in services to the community and they receive money from our local organizations. Most of the human service organizations work with minimum staff and are supported by thousands and thousands of community volunteers. She stated that she started a non-profit in the community 25 years ago that was still running strong and was on Fayette FACTOR's board before being in her current position as Executive Director. Mrs. Oparah stated that the volunteers provide hours of free service in the community. She stated that one of the things that Fayette FACTOR worked on was trying to mitigate issues that threaten the well-being of the community. She stated that having to pivot and do things because of the shut-down, caused by COVID-19, a number of the non-profits loss revenue, had to shut-down regular in-person fundraising opportunities. Clothes Less Traveled had to close its doors. There was a reduction in service due to the pandemic restrictions and a reduction of staff and volunteers through the pandemic. There was a cost to pivot these services to accommodate the pandemic guidelines and increase needs due to the pandemic. There was more demand for assistance during the pandemic. The human service community has been stretched because of the challenges of the pandemic and if some of the human services organizations had to shut their doors, it would have a huge financial impact on the community and the services provided. Mrs. Oparah stated that this was an opportunity afforded through the relief funding, that the government had given, that specifically states that it could help to support non-profits. She stated that had not happened. She stated that they would like for the Board to set aside a percentage of federal funding to support the human services non-profits. She stated that to do it fairly, there needed to be a third-party group that would take the funds and distribute them in a fair

transparent manner to help the non-profits. She stated that the human services organizations, volunteers, and staff would be grateful for the use of the money to help support the organizations that serve the residents of our community.

Angela Bean of Fayetteville thanked the Board for the public discussion and Commissioner Maxwell for adding public comments. She stated that there were many in the room that had no idea what the discussion would be about. She stated that there were no supporting documents posted to the website to review. She stated that she would have preferred to have public comments after the discussion and presentation. Ms. Bean stated that she was proud of the Board, prior to the pandemic, for being fiscally sound, having no debt and a substantial rainy-day fund to fund our government through the pandemic with no layoffs. She stated that now the County was accepting \$22 million when we are still fiscally sound. She stated that she was curious as to why we continue to accept free money from the federal government knowing that the "free money" was not free and would be adding to the national debt. She stated that as a fiscal conservative she wished she had seen state governors, county commissioners, city council mayors and school boards saying, "Thank you, but no thank you. Take this money back. Do not add to the fiscal irresponsibility of the federal government spending." She stated that she looked forward to seeing how the County planned to spend the money and she hoped that public comments would be allowed after the presentation.

Jennifer Young, Regional Director of United Way of Greater Atlanta in Fayette County, stated that she was at the meeting to echo the statements of Dawn Oparah and to lift up the impact that COVID-19 had on health and human services. She stated that they knew, coming into COVID, that children and families are still being impacted and the burden was being felt by the Fayette County health and human services non-profits. United Way, over the past 15 months, looked and responded in a unique and nimble manner on how to help the non-profits. She stated that United Way partnered with a community foundation of greater Atlanta and were nimble enough to allocate \$24 million in less than nine months and \$6.6 million of that money impacted Fayette County residents directly through the services the non-profits could achieve. She stated that through data, the United Way continued to see calls to the 211 service that mental health, financial assistance and securing healthy food continued to be an issue. She stated that working and supporting the human service non-profits in Fayette County, United Way can stabilize them and provide service to help them get back on equal footing to bring in staff, retrain staff and provide the services to the community. Ms. Young stated that United Way was here and willing to be a grant administrator for funds to the health and human services non-profits in Fayette County. United Way has extensive experience, not only with their partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, but they are also a grant administrator for the City of Atlanta. She stated that \$22 million was allocated for emergency housing assistance and are in the process of allocating \$24 million. She stated that they understood federal guidelines, have the systems in place and they have an advisory board made up of Fayette community members. United Way is not only a proven grant administrator but they have also developed an internal process that allows them to be nimble and they can leverage leadership with additional partners and capture data of emerging needs. She asked the Board to continue setting aside a portion of the funds for the health and human services non-profits in Fayette County as they continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and she offered that United Way of Greater Atlanta in Fayette County would be available to administer any grants, as necessary.

Arnie Geiger of Tyrone stated that he agreed with the comments from Angela Bean. He stated that he heard two pleas for non-profits organizations. He stated that Fayette County had a larger percentage per capita of veterans than any other county in Georgia. He stated that if the Board was considering spending funds for non-profits, both the American Legion Post 50 and 105 and the two VFW 9944 and 3650 in Fayetteville, have both supported the community for some time. He stated that if there was extra money, they could use it to help support veterans and youth programs. He stated that their budget had been restricted due to COVID-19.

Jay Coston stated that he was an entrepreneur that moved to Fayette County on January 8, 2021. He stated that one of the main reasons he and his wife moved to Fayette County was because of the schools. He stated that the discussion was about \$22 million and the money could allocate for businesses, veterans, and youth. He stated that the money should be applied to places where it could benefit the community and help the community become better. Mr. Coston stated that if there was money to be allocated, it should be allocated to things that will empower the city. He stated that he wanted to keep young adults that move here, between the ages of 21-28, from various cities with programs and different things within Fayetteville that are beneficial.

Alice Jones of Fayetteville stated that she was part of the meeting system with the Board of Commissioners for many years and she believed that the County opted out to provide any financial support to non-profits. She stated that this money could benefit some of the kids, that she out-of-pocket, helped during the pandemic with tutorial programs, services needed and families that are in need. She stated that this was a great opportunity to support these people and distribute the funds. She agreed with the concept and plan in action that United Way already had in place, to be the resource to see that it was done fair and equitably. She stated that because the Board had opted out to provide any support, including the hospital, this was an opportunity to help.

Arthur Culpepper stated that he was before the Board to ask for help with a tenant that owed rent to him and was under the CDC guidelines (moratorium). He stated that the lady had been living in the house without paying anything since June of 2020. He continued that he was about to lose the house and he did not know what to do other than come before the Board. He stated that he had contacted United Way, the stated, Fayette County and Clayton County. He stated that he had issued a warrant for her to move out and he could not get him out. He stated that he had a judgment against her for \$9,000 but meanwhile he could not keep paying the \$2,100 a month for the expenses for the house. He stated that the CDC moratorium was declared unconstitutional but he could not move the tenant out. He stated that he had gone to the Sheriff's office and they could not move her out. He stated that the judge stated that he could not move her out and that she would have to leave on her own. He asked the Board what was next for him.

Deb Presley-Christensen, Executive Director of Fayette CARE Clinic stated that Fayette CARE Clinic was a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, medical practice that provides free health care to Fayette County residents without insurance and in need of health care. She stated that they were providing approximately 128 hours/month of frequent and consistent care. She continued with the services provided. Ms. Presley-Christensen stated that Fayette CARE Clinic served almost 1,000 patients...all Fayette County residents, an eligibility requirement. She stated that they provide pre-primary care and act as a hub of 61 volunteers through Piedmont Heartis and Ankle and Foot Centers of Georgia, to name a few. She stated that volunteers inside the specialty organizations serve the patients as well. She stated that the budget was about \$337,000 which was down from before and they have trimmed as much as possible. She stated that through the \$337,000 they provide almost \$4 million in free healthcare for Fayette County residents. There is no other clinic that provides free health service. The Health Department, although they sometimes provide primary care, it was on a sliding scale. She stated that these patients do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. Ms. Presley-Christensen referenced Subtitle, Section 11-50(c), funding for providers related to COVID-19, Fayette CARE Clinic qualifies for the funding to healthcare providers for healthcare related expenses and loss revenue contributed to COVID-19 by directly protecting the health and well-being of Fayette County residents through healthcare services. She stated that they are audited. Their board approved budget revenue prior to March 27 was \$329,074 and the actual was \$257,182. There was a loss of \$71,000. She stated that they moved to telehealth which was a small increase. She stated that Fayette CARE Clinic was requesting the difference of \$72,000 to stabilize.

Michael Mumper stated that he wanted to make four points; the need, who provides it, the uses of the funds and integrity. He stated that the Board heard from several people regarding the need. He stated that a recent study released by the CDC stated that anxiety and depressive disorders have increased nationwide during COVID. He stated that in a county of 100,000 people, every one percent increase was 1,000 people, so 5,000 Fayette County residents are experiencing more anxiety depressive disorder during COVID. He continued with statistics of unmet healthcare needs and increase in alcohol use since COVID. He stated that Fayette County non-profits provide a lot of the services that keep the county healthy. He stated that he was not a legal expert but the way he read the law, counties are asked to distribute the funds among four areas; (Section 603) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, 1) to respond to the public health emergency in respect to the coronavirus disease or its negative economic impact including assistance to households, small businesses and non-profits or aid to impacted industries, such as, tourism, travel and hospitality, 2) to workers performing essential work during the COVID public health emergency, 3) for the provision of government services due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and 4) to make necessary investment in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. He stated that he hoped during the presentation to hear those four areas covered. He stated that in his conversation with one of the commissioners, the commissioner said that we need to balance the needs of the community at this time. He stated that the Board should balance these four uses of the funds as instructed by the federal government. Mr. Mumper stated that doing this with integrity by engaging with United Way, a third-party organization with expertise and that is made up of leaders that live in Fayette County, was an excellent way. He stated that Wal-Mart experienced shortages by people stealing from the stores but they do not close Wal-Mart, instead they set up controls for regulating how

people use Wal-Mart, so even if someone used the money inappropriately, there would be proper protocols to manage the funds as well as could be expected thanks to United Way.

Iris Blevins, Director of Genesis Learning Services in Fayetteville stated that she would like to piggyback on the responses of the individuals speaking on behalf of the non-profits in Fayette County. She stated that Genesis was an academic support business that provides tutoring, IEP support, advocacy, and private school support. She stated that due to the recent pandemic many of the students have suffered learning virtually. She stated that many of the students are special needs and some are high performance students, whose initial mode of learning was not via the internet. She stated that Genesis bridged the gap to provide academic support so that the students would not receive deficits throughout their learning. She shared some of the accomplishments of the interns and high schoolers attending Genesis. Ms. Blevins continued with supporting information regarding the Special Needs programs. She stated that it was vital to keep, sustain and maintain the non-profits to provide services to a certain population of people and see academic success, economic success throughout the county. She spoke of the e-commerce program at Genesis. She stated that as the Board considered the allocation of the American Rescue Plan funds to keep the non-profits sectors in mind.

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:

The Fire Station #4 renovation shortfall. This project is currently in the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget.

Falcon Field requested funds for infrastructure enhancements. The Finance Office revenue shortfall at \$750,000.

Fire & EMS projects were discussed at the retreat in April. The projects were the fire training building/tower at \$1,650,000, the fire classrooms and training facility at \$1,500,000 and the pumper/aerial driver training course at \$665,000. The Health Department projected building shortfall at \$5,956,166. This was also discussed at retreat. The digital exchange documents and WebEx project at the Justice Center. Camera System at the Stonewall Complex and at Lakes McIntosh and Horton at \$100,000. This project is also currently in the CIP budget. Mr. Rapson stated that some of these projects identified, although he was not recommending that they be funded through ARPA, he will be recommending that they be funded through the five-year capital plan. The Recreation football [lacrosse] facility and the Recreation Multiuse facility. There was \$276,000 in the CIP to start developing the floor plan and layout for the building, so if the Board decided in the future to do a SPLOST or fund the project we could move forward. He continued the discussion with other proposed projects. Senior Services transport vehicles at \$125,000. There was \$30,000 placed in the budget for this year and staff was pursuing "5310 money", which was money received from the federal government for vehicles. The final build-out for the training facility, the ballistics and the driving simulator were also proposed projects. Mr. Rapson stated that the only project the Board had not seen was the one for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

Mr. Rapson concluded the presentation. He stated that this was the recommendation from staff on the ARPA \$22.2 million. He stated that completing the training facilities for Fire and the Sheriff's Office would have just as much impact as when the Board gave the public safety the 9% increase and changed the retirement plan. He stated that he was not sure what the \$6 million shortfall for the health building is still being determined. Staff was working to incorporate mental health in that building. He stated that the first three presentations were made as part of the retreat discussion. The meter replacement was a new proposal.

Mr. Rapson stated that this program would take the existing meters and replace all 32,000 plus within the entire county. He stated that this change would benefit roughly 85% of the residents because some residents are on wells. He stated that the meters would provide the Water System the ability to immediately identify if there was a leak, it enables the County to have quality water to all residents and this project and the Health Department project were the only two projects that staff was confident that would be allowed under the ARPA funds. He stated that he was not as confident about the public safety training facilities. He stated that he was not sure that the multiuse recreation facility was eligible, but it would be less eligible than the public safety. He continued that the cost associated with the meters included the \$1.8 million to have contractors put the meters in.

Chairman Hearn stated that he had a concern about the public safety training facilities and if it went over budget. He stated that he would like to see money built-in to cover any overage for the training facilities and the health building as well.

Mr. Rapson stated that mental health requested the same allocation that they received last year. He stated that they have expressed that more space was needed and it made sense to put mental health in the health building. Mr. Rapson stated that he would recommend taking some of the \$11 million allocated to the Water System and allocate \$1 million to the Sheriff and EMS and then allocate another \$1 million to the health building for an additional 3,000 to 4,000 square feet to add space for mental health in the building.

Chairman Hearn stated that he was supportive of that recommendation.

Commissioner Charles Oddo stated that this was staff's recommendation and was like the grant requests that are submitted for road repairs. He stated that we always developed a list of more roads than we can do and we scale back the projects if there was not enough money. He stated that was how he would look at these projects. If there was not enough money to do what we want, we would figure out a way and scale back the project or look at other ways to finance the project.

Commissioner Charles Rousseau stated that he had seen most of the proposals in some shape, form, or fashion with the exception of the meters. He stated that over the course of the last three years he had advocated and worked with the Board and the Water System to talk about the individuals on well water. One of the things that the Water System had to do to stay viable was to get new customers or sell more water. He stated that with that, were there any proposals to possibly purchase some of the well systems that might be interested in selling to the County so we can bring higher level of quality of water to those communities. He stated that in addition to that, most people did not know that those systems are not on a fire hydrant and therefore, for fire safety, we use pumper trucks in those communities. He stated that he would like to see something added in respect to potentially acquiring systems that might be interested in selling. He stated that the County would gain new customers and generate revenue, although it would take a while to recoup the investment, the County would be providing a higher level of quality water and be able to put those communities on a water system for fire hydrants. He stated that these were things that he would like included, if not already included. He stated that he had just received the information and was did not know if it was already included. Commissioner Rousseau stated that the County had been working on this water issue for three years and he would like to see that the County was using the opportunity for these dollars (ARPA) to do something that might enhance the quality of life for our communities.

Commissioner Rousseau's second issue was non-profits. He stated that he brought the issue of non-profits before the Board a few years ago and the Board was able to do some things temporarily and then adopted this posture. He wanted the public to know that the County did still affiliate with non-profits, Fayette Senior Services. He stated that Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) projected that Fayette County will be an aging-in-place community for the next 20 years or more. One of the investments that the County must continue to make was in the senior population, hence the non-profits that largely serve youth and seniors that find themselves in need, not only because of COVID but in addition to COVID. He stated that he would like for the Board to vote up or down to have money put aside, out of the \$22 million ARPA funds. He stated that this was a unique opportunity and he did not want the County to miss this opportunity. He stated that Fayette County was the number one self-reporting community for the past Census and that the dollars are dollars returning to this community that are "your dollars already". He stated that Fayette County did not have a human services department and therefore relied on non-profits to fill the gap to be the service provider in the community that catch people that might fall through the gap and have challenges. There was no community without challenges, food insecurities, utilities, and challenges like those expressed by Mr. Arthur Culpepper. He stated that these millions of dollars came from property taxes and if those properties go bad, the tax digest will be compromised. He stated that he would like to see the Board set dollars aside for the non-profit community, particularly in housing, food insecurity and other services, mental health and otherwise. He stated that he was not prepared to vote on anything at this meeting because he just received the information and he would like to digest the information and offer some other things. He stated that Department of Community Affairs and United Way could help administer distribution of dollars. The County did not have to create an entity to do it.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that he wanted to respond to the question about rejecting the money. He stated that in 2007 he was commissioner and the real estate market collapsed and the federal government offered Fayette County \$1.2 million. He stated that he led the charge to reject that money and the reason was because of all the strings attached to accept the money. The requirement was to set up a renovation plan to renovate houses and that was not enough money to set up an entire program to renovate a few houses. He stated that it was easy to get the other commissioners to reject that money. He stated that it was hard to reject the money when you are a donor county like Fayette County. He stated that the money that leaves Fayette County and goes to Atlanta generally did not come back, so if the county donated a \$1, the county may get a nickel. It was hard to reject the money but because of the strings attached it was easy to reject the money. The American Rescue Plan was \$65 trillion. He stated that if Fayette received \$22 million of that money, it was 130,000% of the entire amount allocated by the federal government. He stated that he did not see any way to seriously reject the \$22 million. If the County did not accept the money it would go to a different local government. Commissioner Maxwell stated that if he thought it would help balance the federal budget or slow down what was being done in Congress, he would probably consider sending the money back. However, it did not look like they were going to stop. He stated that he was in a position that he felt the County must accept the money and then

determine how to spend the money. He stated that the plans discussed might be new to some but not to him. He started working on the water meters about two years ago and met with a vendor to learn about the water meters and what can be done for the county. He stated that it was an expensive program and he learned that the water system staff should not be the ones to install the new meters. He stated that we had to have this type of project done. He stated that he was not in favor of doing anything with the private water systems. He did not know of any that were currently for sale and he would not be in favor of purchasing them. If the owners of the private water systems wanted to "give" the system to the county, he would consider that for those communities. He stated that he was in support of the water meter program.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that the training facilities are necessary and they support 100% of the county's population. There are many other worthy causes where the money can be used. He stated that non-profits were not a line item in the budget and he did not see that the County should create a new line item for two years for the non-profits. He stated that it did not mean that the non-profits were not a valuable resource. He stated that he had participated in a lot of the events held by non-profits. He was sorry that there have been no events. His approach was that non-profits are not included. He stated that he preferred to vote at this meeting regarding this matter.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that it was nice to see the structure of the health building coming together. He continued that this had been a project that the Board had discussed for several years and had become a bigger project than he initially thought. He stated that the Health Department committed money and the County committed money to this project. The question was how much the building was going to cost. He stated that the County dealt with cost overruns routinely. He stated that the \$6 million building benefited 100% of the people in Fayette County and some outside of the county. The projects presented seemed to be a well thought out plan. He stated that he preferred to have a motion and deal with it at this meeting.

Vice Chairman Gibbons stated that he also would like to vote at this meeting. He stated that he did not like the bill [act] and he would not have voted for it if he was in Congress but as stated by Commissioner Maxwell, the County had accepted federal money in the past. Last year the CARES Act passed while President Trump was in office, and no one came to the Board to talk about rejecting that \$2.7 million. He stated that just because there was a President in Congress that we did not like, did not mean that the County would stop accepting federal funding. He asked how much federal money the County had received annually for things like transportation, infrastructure, and any other grants from the federal government.

Mr. Rapson stated that it would have to be in the millions. He stated that in this budget year there was about \$6 million in federal funds in the budget.

Vice Chairman Gibbons stated that the County received a lot of money from Georgia Department of Transportation each year so the Board was not setting a precedent by accepting federal tax dollars. He stated that all the projects had been discussed during public meetings prior to this meeting.

Mr. Rapson stated yes.

Vice Chairman Gibbons stated that all the meetings were published in accordance with state law.

Mr. Rapson stated that the AMI project was one that we finally put an amount to, but it had been debated for about five years.

Vice Chairman Gibbons stated that these were things that had been discussed in public meetings.

Mr. Rapson stated yes.

Commissioner Oddo stated that everyone was making very good points across the board. He stated that there were not any programs that was not worthy in some way or another. He stated that he would like to get Mr. Rapson to clarify some points.

Mr. Rapson stated that regarding cost overrun for the training facilities he was more concerned with the Sheriff's primarily because it would come out the General Fund. The Fire & EMS fund balance was primarily healthy. The County rolled back taxes

for seven years and the Fire & EMS received the benefits of all the previous digests. He stated that if any money would be allocated from the AMI, it can be allocated to the Sheriff's Office to sure-up the training facility and allocate some to the Health Department building. It made sense to put mental health in the building with the Health Department. He proposed \$1 million to each, the Sheriff's training facility and the Health Department. He stated that we would sure-up the AMI project through the savings from implementing the AMI project. He stated that there would be about \$500,000 savings a year and he could take that \$2 million over the next two or three years for that project within the Water System.

Mr. Rapson stated that last year the County set aside \$250,000 and would be setting aside another \$250,000 which means the County would have \$500,000 to acquire a private water system. There are two systems that are ranked #1 and #2. He stated that he knew there was not a 100% agreement on the Board but it would be part of the five-year CIP that will be addressed.

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.

The May 6, 2021, Special Called Meeting adjourned.

Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk

Lee Hearn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 27th day of May 2021. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk