



Minutes - February 24, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Mawhinney called the Finance Committee meeting to order in the Jury Deliberation Room at 5:05 P.M. on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Mawhinney, Aegerter, Davis, and Richard Bostwick.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Fox.

Staff Members Present: Sherry Oja, Finance Director; Lisa Tollefson, County Clerk; Josh Smith, County Administrator; Randy Terronez, Assistant to the Administrator; Richard Greenlee, Corporation Counsel; Terri Carlson, Risk Manager; Andrew Baker, Director of Land Conservation, Planning and Development; Brent Sutherland, Facilities Director; Kate Luster, Human Services Director; and Ryan Wiesen, Assistant Finance Director.

Others Present: Supervisors Podzilni, Beaver, and Sweeney; Tracy Buck; Chalean Johnson; Lisa Thompson; Kelsey Hood-Christenson; Gianna Perata; Nayomi Nedengal; Karmen Payne-Mansel; Christopher Odgon; Sophia Langkamp; Kimberly Valenta; Eboni Morrow; Jon Pfleiderer; Bill Flaugan; Mandy Chitwood; Angela Bautista; Chris Popoola; A'shawntee Spates; Carol Wickersham.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Bostwick moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Davis. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: There was public comment submitted by Nancy Stabb, Jessica Locher, and Debra Griffith expressing support for the resolution Reserving American Rescue Plan Act Funds for an Initiative to Develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County. There were 6 letters submitted in support of the resolution Creating a Housing Coordinator and Allocating Funding for Housing Consultant Services Using American Rescue Act Funds from Neil & Kay Deupree, Supervisor Shirley Williams, Jessica Locher, Debra Griffith, and Nancy Stabb.

Kelsey Hood-Christenson, Karmen Payne Mansel, Mandy Chickuit, Angela Beltista, Sophie Langkamp, Chris Ogdon, Bill Flanagan, Eboni Morrow, Nayomi Nedangal, Kimberly Valenta, John Pfleiderer, Lisa Thompson, Gianna Perata, and Tracy Buck attended the meeting in-person and provided public comment in support of the resolution Reserving American Rescue Plan Act Funds for an Initiative to Develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County and the resolution Creating a Housing Coordinator and Allocating Funding for Housing Consultant Services Using American Rescue Act Funds.

Approval of Minutes:

February 10, 2022 Minutes: Supervisor Bostwick moved approval of the February 10, 2022 minutes as presented, second by Supervisor Davis. ADOPTED.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for an Initiative to Develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County: Supervisor Davis moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Aegerter.

Supervisor Mawhinney inquired what will happen when the funds have been used. John Pfleiderer, Executive Director at Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, Inc., responded that the initial investment from Rock County will start the project and will encourage other funding sources moving forward. Josh Smith explained that this resolution sets aside the funds and amends the budget, but it does not yet dedicate it to any project.

ADOPTED.

Creating a Housing Coordinator and Allocating Funding for Housing Consultant Services Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds: Supervisor Aegerter moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Bostwick.

Supervisor Aegerter moved to amend per the amendments made at Human Services Board (attached), second Supervisor Bostwick.

The approved amendment is noted below in red.

Title: Creating a ~~Housing~~ Homelessness Prevention Coordinator.....

WHEREAS, adequate response to these needs requiresRock County Housing authority, and other municipalities that choose to prioritize strategic efforts to address homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, in addition, long term improvements in outcomes related to housing and homelessness will only come with a targeted effort toward homelessness prevention including work to develop employment readiness resources and to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment; ~~effective needs assessment and strategic planning efforts that will require outside consultant expertise; and,~~

WHEREAS, effective needs assessment and strategic planning efforts will require outside consultant expertise; and,

WHEREAS, the projected cost for the ~~Housing~~ Homelessness Prevention Coordinator Position from April 1, 2022- December 31, 2024 is \$278,772.00 and the projected cost of consultant services is \$150,000.00; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this _____ day of _____, 2022 does hereby create a 1.0 FTE ~~Housing~~ Homeless Prevention Coordinator...

..."

ADOPTED.

Authorizing Overlap of Finance Accountant Position and Amending the 2022 Finance Department Budget: Supervisor Davis moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Bostwick.

Sherry Oja spoke to this resolution. She explained that this position has a wide range of duties. The current unilateral Accountant is retiring, and they would like an overlap to allow for training.

ADOPTED.

Authorizing Premium Pay for COVID-19 Contact Risk Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds: This item was removed from the agenda.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action: None.

Adjournment: Supervisor Bostwick moved to adjourn at 5:53 P.M., second by Supervisor Davis.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,
Haley Hoffman
Office Coordinator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Haley Hoffman

From: Public Comment Request Form <noreply@co.rock.wi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 5:11 PM
To: PUBLIC COMMENT
Subject: Public Comment Request Submission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Rock County (Rock-IT) network. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you feel this email is a potential phishing attempt, please forward to PhishingAlerts@co.rock.wi.us for review.

Please enter the agenda topic, if applicable, and any written comment you wish to submit here: - #5: A & B Resolutions for ARPA Funds

Dear Finance Committee,

I am a resident of Rock County, City of Janesville.

I am writing to encourage you to accept the proposal for a Rock County Homeless Coordinator and allocate funding for Housing Consultant Services using the ARPA funds and then reserving funds to develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County.

One only has to pay attention to the services that Food pantries are providing and listen to School Districts dealing with families struggling to remain housed to know that Rock County would be served well to oversee this growing challenge. This is not just an urban problem.

My own experience, retired from the School District of Janesville, has opened my eyes to the trauma and uncertainty for the children whose families are unhoused. Being able to attend and learn at school is not the priority of a family trying to find a safe place to live.

I urge you to accept the proposals,

Debra Griffith

1236 Somerset Ct.

Janesville, WI

Full Name - Debra Griffith

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Meeting Date - 02/24/2022

Address - 1236 Somerset Ct Janesville

Email Address - debngreg0148@att.net

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Haley Hoffman

From: Jessica Locher <jlocher@echojanesville.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 10:23 AM
To: COUNTYADMIN
Cc: Kelsey Hood-Christenson
Subject: Public Comment for 2/24/22 Full Board of Supervisor Meeting

ECHO is in support of both resolutions on the agenda for approval: Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for an Initiative to Develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County and Creating a Housing Coordinator and Allocating Funding for Housing Consultant Services Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

The need for housing is so important. Both of these resolutions will be meeting a large need in Rock County. On any given day there is at least 350 homeless people in Rock County. During the last homeless count on 1/26, there were 388 people identified as homeless. This is not a final number as agencies are still turning in their data. The transitional housing project will be run by Family Services, who is a well known agency of many programs. I as a member of the Homeless Intervention Task Force signed a letter of support for this project. There is currently not enough supportive housing in our community to meet the need. There is also a large lack of non-supportive affordable housing which hopefully the new Housing Coordinator can help seek out additional housing for the county.

Jessica Locher
Executive Director
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Haley Hoffman

From: Nancy Stabb <nstabb@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Haley Hoffman
Subject: Message to Finance Committee

To: Members of Rock County Board Finance Committee
From: Nancy Stabb, 1200 S. River Rd., Janesville, WI 53546
Date: February 22, 2022

Re: Resolutions to use ARPA funds to provide for Transitional Housing for families

I strongly support the Resolution initiated by Brian Knudsen to allocate \$3 Million in ARPA funds to be used for a Transitional Housing Initiative. The rationale for the allocation are well stated in the resolution. The acute shortage of affordable housing in the County is having a negative impact on all families but is especially acute for those with children whose development is adversely affected by homelessness. While it is difficult to quantify, we know there is a psychosocial cost resulting from housing insecurity that we will be paying for in additional mental health treatment for these children as they age. Allocating \$3 Million dollars to reduce homelessness should be consider as an investment in Rock County families' well being. It is money well spent.

Re: Resolution to use ARPA funds to provide for Housing Consultant Services

I strongly support the Resolution to allocate \$428,772 of ARPA funds for the purpose of funding the position of Housing Coordinator and to cover cost of Consultant Services the Coordinator may need. The Housing Coordinator position could play an important role in in advancing efforts to reduce homelessness in Rock County. What is needed is a person with specific subject matter expertise to work with Consultants to prepare an effective needs assessment and strategic plan to address the issue of lack of affordable housing. A crisis to crisis approach is inefficient. This, too, will be money well spent.

To the Rock County Board of Supervisors February 24, 2022

From Neil Deupree, 714 Wilson Av, Janesville

I am in favor of the Resolution to use ARPA funds to develop a transitional housing resource.

Homelessness carries with it many negative impacts on lives. These stresses include helplessness and hopelessness.

A resource to assist people in maintaining stable housing can have positive impacts on many levels.

Thank you.

TO: Rock County Board Staff Committee

FROM: Rock County Board of Supervisor
Shirley Williams, District 14

RE: Proposed Resolution for Creating a Housing Coordinator and Allocating Funding for
Housing Consultant Services Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

I strongly support the above referenced Resolution to allocate funds to support creating a 1.0 FTE Housing Coordinator position and contracted consultant services to address the homelessness and housing issues within Rock County.