

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE
COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
JUNE 16, 2021 – 2:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, ARP Committee Chairman (arrived 2:05 p.m.)
Commissioner Glenn Adams
Commissioner Toni Stewart
Amy Cannon, County Manager
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager
Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant County Manager
Ron Hamm, Hamm Consulting Group President (attended remotely)
Debra Bryant, Hamm Consulting Group (attended remotely)
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Adams called the special meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the timeline, community survey and public engagement meetings with participation by the federal lobbyists.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the agenda.
SECOND: Commissioner Adams
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

3. REVIEW OF UPDATED INTERIM FINAL RULE AND GUIDANCE FOR STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

Amy Cannon, County Manager, recognized Ron Hamm, Hamm Consulting Group President, and Debra Bryant of the Hamm Consulting Group who were attending remotely. Commissioner Keefe arrived.

Mr. Hamm referenced the May 25 meeting and stated the guidance from the Treasury is still new; however, at this meeting he plans to focus on responses to some of the FAQs that will continue to be updated by the Treasury as the act unfolds. Mr. Hamm provided the following responses to FAQs: ARP funds the county receives will cover the period of March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024; there is a deadline to certify the funds with Treasury; there is tremendous flexibility in the use of ARP funds; ARP funds can be deposited in interest bearing accounts; he would advise county/financial staff to carefully go through the guidance as it differs from the CARES Act; ARP funds can be used to cover the cost of a consultant to assist with managing and administering the funds; ARP funds can be used to establish job programs; ARP funds can be used for child

assistance and transition; the way to calculate lost revenue under ARP is much more flexible than earlier generations of assistance for COVID; the county can use its own data when calculating revenue loss overall, not necessarily losses tied to COVID, and does not need to rely on the Citizens Bureau; use ARP funds to deal with needs of the underserved community seriously impacted by COVID; this is a great one-time funding opportunity from an economic development/community development standpoint to address water and sewer in terms of an investment.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the economic impact of losses to venues there were shuttered during COVID, the flexibility to provide assistance or share funds, investment in water/sewer and broadband, other investment opportunities, capital projects with a long-term effect on the community, and qualified census tract projects to include behavioral and human services/education/job training.

Mr. Hamm referenced the interim report and stated the Treasury is going to want a summary of expenses from March 3, 2021 and categories for the expenditures. Mr. Hamm stated the HCG will keep their eyes open for any guidance that is issued in terms of the interim report. Commissioner Adams asked Ms. Cannon to be sure the first tranche the county received had been placed in an interest-bearing account according to guidance that was received. Ms. Shutt stated because Cumberland is a county with over 225,000, it has to submit a recovery plan and performance report with projects, performance indicators and objectives. In response to a question posed by Commissioner Keefe, Mr. Hamm stated the reports will be limited to ARP funds the county received from Treasury and not state/federal grant funds.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE MAY 25 MEETINGS - LIST OF FEDERAL AGENDA AND ARP POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Ms. Cannon referenced the May 25 meeting with county department heads and the HCG and the May 25 meeting with the ARP Committee and the HCG. Ms. Cannon stated Mr. Hamm is here today to provide feedback on the various projects by project categories. Ms. Cannon stated the list of federal agenda projects is being provided for information only, the committee is not being asked to take any action and no one is recommending the county apply for all of the projects on the list. Ms. Cannon stated the list is a starting point for the committee once the committee begins to narrow down the Board's priorities.

Mr. Hamm stated the big purpose of submitting reports is that they will provide an opportunity for the Treasury to review the county's projects and expenditures to make sure they are in compliance. Questions and discussion followed regarding projects, reporting and whether/when feedback will be received from Treasury. Ms. Wright-Lanier stated the HCG has good relationships with the various agencies at the federal level and the county can check in with them. Mr. Hamm called attention to language in the guidance of "shall" versus "may" which allows for discretion or "encouraged" which means those things that are not required.

With regard to the list, Mr. Hamm stated there are two tracks: ARP projects/investments and the development of the county's federal agenda. Mr. Hamm stated the amount of money received under the ARP will not necessarily be provided in a state appropriations bill and this should be

considered when looking at the scale of the various projects. In response to a question posed by Commissioner Adams, Mr. Hamm stated the HCG can advise the county on which funding to use.

Review and discussion of the list followed.

Project Categories	Project and Issue Description
Infrastructure	<p>Water and Sewer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-wide Public Water and Sewer • Gray’s Creek • Shaw Heights • Flood Prevention • Watershed Restoration • Locks and Dams, Corps of Engineers • Stormwater • The Northern Cumberland Regional Sewer System (NORCRESS) <p>Broadband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-wide Broadband (MetroNet Fiber) • Community Hotspots <p>Parks and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenways • Walking Trails <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Buildings Development Incentives • Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
Community Support Services	<p>Child Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to Support Training of Case Managers <p>Veterans Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Federal Funding to support County Services to Veterans • Veterans Service Facility Expansion <p>Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable Disease • Tobacco Control – Cessation Support Services • Opioids • Teen Pregnancy • Behavioral Health Support (Chronically Mentally Ill, Substance Abuse) • Child and Adolescent Crisis • Healthy Foods Access • Food Security <p>Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Mental Health Crisis Center • Child Welfare and Adult Protective Services • Domestic Violence

Community Support Services	Farmers Market Feasibility Robins Meadow Transitional Housing Disaster Funding County/Fort Bragg collaboration efforts on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Veterans, and Health services. Vaccination Data Sharing with Fort Bragg
Community Development	Shaw Heights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary Sewer System • Affordable Housing • Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Energy Efficient Housing Projects Housing Assistance for Special populations (Disabled, Elderly) Homelessness Funding and Support Senior Homes Lead and Asbestos Abatement Library Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband Access for Consumers • Mobile Computer Lab with Digital Navigator Model • Digital Programming
Economic Development & Workforce	HR Talent Portal Project – transitioning servicemembers, military spouses, vets Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) – E.E. Smith High School Fayetteville State University – Veterans NC CEED – Women and Minority Business Development Workforce Development Job and Vocational Training Second Chance Re-entry/Expungement Resources Business Accelerators and Incubators Performing Arts and Multi-purpose Center
Public Safety and Courts	Sheriff’s Office TDMA Radio Replacement Project Funding for Courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Court • Sobriety Court • Veterans Court • Human Trafficking Court • Family Court
Emergency Services and Resiliency	Rehab and Relief Trailer for EMS personnel Hazard Mitigation/Post Disaster Funding for Buy-outs and Relocation FEMA Fire Prevention Grant Support Increased Funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Emergency Call Center

	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Support
Environment	PFAS – Gray’s Creek Environmental Justice Grant Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Electric Garbage Truck Fleet Conversion Lead Abatement

Mr. Hamm recommended using ARP funds for big infrastructure projects and stated the county may want to prioritize its many water/sewer projects to help determine what funding to use.

Commissioner Stewart stated projects that stood out on the first page were Shaw Heights, Gray’s Creek, opioids, behavioral health support and human trafficking court. Commissioner Adams stated essential workers are missing from the list. Ms. Shutt clarified the May 25 meeting with county departments was geared more towards the federal agenda, not about the ARP. Ms. Shutt stated the ARP list has not been developed although some of the projects on the list for the federal agenda could be on an ARP list. Ms. Cannon stated now that there is a subset of the federal agenda, grant opportunities and ARP funding, projects could overlap to some degree which makes it confusing.

Mr. Hamm spoke to the process involved with setting the federal agenda. Commissioner Adams stated the ARP Committee was appointed to make recommendations about ARP funding, not to engineer the federal agenda, so the federal agenda should be vetted/developed by the full Board. Commissioner Stewart concurred. Commissioner Adams stated these tracks need to be kept separate even though there may be some overlap. Discussion continued about community input. Mr. Hamm stated there is typically not a discussion of the federal agenda with the community because it is usually decided by the elected body working with staff; however, community input received on ARP funds could possibly influence the federal agenda.

Commissioner Keefe stated the county’s relationship with Ft. Bragg makes it unique and puts it in a better place at the federal level, but he only saw one small initiative that brings Ft. Bragg into play. Debra Bryant with the Hamm Consulting Group stated Ft. Bragg is found under the category of Economic Development and the Workforce/HR Talent Portal Project-transitioning servicemembers, military spouses and veterans; Senator Tillis’ office has been very responsive and has spoken with Senator Burr’s office, both of whom are being briefed by staff. Ms. Bryant stated Fayetteville State University’s veterans’ program/services, the joint Ft. Bragg/county food policy council, and the fact that Cumberland County is the home to Ft. Bragg will be integral parts of what HCG promotes. Commissioner Keefe asked how the county can support active-duty Ft. Bragg soldiers, if that is truly a foot in the door. Commissioner Keefe stated the available time is not going to be about how much money the county gets but rather about how much money is available that is not asked for by the county.

Commissioner Keefe asked what the expectation was for representation at the state level. Ms. Bryant stated the HCG does not directly lobby the N.C. General Assembly although HCG monitors their progress. Commissioner Keefe stated what he heard is that it is the county’s responsibility to advocate with its state legislative delegation for state ARP appropriations. Ms. Bryant stated that is correct and the HCG can work with Ms. Shutt and Ms. Wright-Lanier to make recommendations once the appropriations are finalized. In response to a question from Commissioner Keefe, Mr. Hamm stated if it will strengthen a project, the city and county can look at opportunities to engage in joint projects. Mr. Hamm stated there is a huge need for water and sewer nationwide and some legislatures assume that ARP recipients will put water and sewer at the top of their list. Commissioner Adams stated the county needs to see what happens with the infrastructure bill before determining the direction for some of the projects. Commissioner Keefe also stated there are only going to be so many contractors statewide to handle construction projects.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

A. Community Survey with ARP Component

Ms. Shutt stated she reached out to two consultants to get pricing for a community survey. Ms. Shutt distributed a copy of Mecklenburg County’s community survey that is conducted twice a year as an example. Ms. Shutt stated the survey will not only be a great opportunity to ask about the ARP funds but will also provide an opportunity to get feedback on other strategic plan priorities. Commissioner Adams stated the two surveys should be separate and the July 2021 survey should be restricted to ARP funds; the full Board should determine whether it wants to conduct a full-blown community wide survey. A brief discussion followed about survey, survey content and the priorities of citizens in Cumberland County relative to where they live.

B. Proposed Public Meeting Schedule

Ms. Shutt reviewed the proposed timeline and proposed public meeting schedule below.

COVID RECOVERY/AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING
Proposed Timeline

June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community input - Engage community survey consultant - Design survey and prepare sampling plan - Finalize Sampling plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create COVID Recovery Funding Webpage
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer community survey • Conduct community meetings to gather feedback
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive final community survey report and evaluate community feedback • ARP Committee sets funding priorities and presents to full BOC • Submit initial spending plan report

July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch early projects
December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All funds fully obligated
December 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects complete and funds fully expended •

Discussion followed about the meeting schedule and locations as proposed.

Proposed Community Meetings – (revised by ARP Committee)

- Tuesday, July 13 6-7 p.m. Headquarters Library (no game)
- Thursday, July 15 6-7 p.m. East Regional Library
- Monday, July 19 6-7 p.m. West Library or Cliffdale Library
- Wednesday, July 21 6-7 p.m. North Regional Library
- Thursday, July 27 6-7 p.m. Virtual Town Hall - through GTM

Commissioner Adams noted the Spring Lake community was not included. Commissioner Stewart asked about Linden, Stedman and Wade in District 2. Commissioner Keefe asked whether the community meetings would be broadcast live so citizens could watch and comment. Ms. Shutt stated the meetings will have live Facebook options. Ms. Cannon spoke to challenges associated with live broadcasts in rural areas. Commissioner Adams asked staff to identify meeting locations in rural areas where the people live so meetings can be conducted face-to-face and to reach out to the mayors for their recommendations for meetings in their vicinities. Commissioner Keefe suggested a rollout at a meeting with the Mayors’ Coalition chaired by Mayor Turpin. Discussion followed about the community meetings and the ARP and community surveys, and the task of the ARP Committee.

Consensus was for a shorter ARP survey developed in-house, at least four Tuesday and Thursday face-to-face meetings and a virtual meeting. Commissioner Adams asked Mr. Cannon to talk with the City of Fayetteville.

6. NEXT STEPS

- MOTION: Commissioner Adams moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Commissioner Stewart
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board