

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE  
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 1225 RAMSEY STREET, FAYETTEVILLE  
JULY 13, 2021 – 5:30 PM  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, ARP Committee Chairman  
Commissioner Glenn Adams  
Amy Cannon, County Manager  
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager  
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager  
Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant County Manager  
N.C. Representative Billy Richardson  
Justin Hembree, Mid-Carolina Council of Governments Executive Director  
Mayor Jackie Warner, Hope Mills  
Mayor Clifton L. Turpin, Jr. Falcon  
Mayor Frances B. Collier, Linden  
Mayor Larry G. Dobbins, Spring Lake  
Mayor Charles McLaurin, Eastover  
Mayor Willie Burnette, Godwin  
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Commissioner Toni Stewart

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Keefe called the special meeting to order. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with the Mayors’ Coalition for an American Rescue Plan presentation and discussion. Commissioner Keefe provided opening remarks and introduced members of the ARP Committee, noting that Commissioner Stewart was unable to be present. Commissioner Keefe also recognized in attendance N.C. Representative Billy Richardson and Justin Hembree, Executive Director Mid-Carolina Council of Governments.

Mayor Turpin, chair of the Mayors’ Coalition, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked the county for hosting the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Keefe moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Commissioner Adams

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

3. PRESENTATION BY COUNTY MANAGER AMY CANNON

Amy Cannon, County Manager, stated the ARP Committee wants to get feedback from citizens as

it relates to the use of Cumberland County's ARP funds and following this meeting with the Mayors' Coalition, there will be a series of six community meetings for citizen input. Ms. Cannon stated the ARP Committee asked her to set the stage for these meetings and provide information on the ARP funding allocation and eligible uses of the funding. Ms. Cannon provided the following PowerPoint presentation and stated this is the same presentation that will be provided at the community meetings in addition to survey in which citizens can receive immediate feedback.

#### American Rescue Plan Act

- President signed act on March 11, 2021
- Includes \$350 billion for state, local, territorial and Tribal governments (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds)
- Cumberland County's allocation is \$65 million
- Funds delivered in two payments; first in 2021 and second in 2022

#### US Treasury Guidance (Interim Final Rule)

- Funds can cover eligible expenses from March 3, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2024
- Funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024
- Funds must be expended by Dec. 31, 2026
- Reporting requirements include expenditures and performance measures
- Administrative costs allowable
- Must provide evidence of specific harm caused by COVID 19 and how projects will demonstrate meaningful impact
- Recipients with populations over 250,000 must submit annual spending plan to Treasury by Aug 31, 2021

#### Eligible Uses of Funds

##### A. Support public health response

- Prevent and mitigate COVID-19. Potential uses include vaccination programs, testing, contact tracing and many related activities
- Enhance behavioral health services, such as mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, hotlines, crisis intervention, overdose prevention and related services
- Improve the design and execution of health and public health programs to address the COVID-19 emergency through planning and analysis, which may include improvements to technology infrastructure and targeted consumer outreach
- Address disparities in public health outcomes

##### B. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

- Assistance to households or populations, preferably those most disproportionately impacted (food, rent, mortgage, utility, home repairs, job training, etc.)
- Small business and non-profit support with loans, grants, in-kind assistance and technical support
- Aid to impacted industries, including the tourism, travel, hospitality and other impacted sectors

C. Provide premium pay for essential workers

Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors

D. Investment in water and sewer infrastructure

- Guidance allows for a broad range of necessary projects to improve access to clean drinking water and improve sewer infrastructure systems.
- Eligible uses are aligned to Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) project categories for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

E. Investment in broadband infrastructure

- Focus on households and businesses without access to broadband connectivity
- Fund projects that deliver reliable service with acceptable upload speeds

Replace public sector revenue loss

Counties may use Recovery Funds for the provision of "government services" to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Equity-Focused Services

- Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities and promote healthy environments for children
- Broadly applicable to Qualified Census Tracts and other disproportionately impacted areas

Opportunities for Citizen Input/Wrap Up

- Online survey at [cumberlandcountync.gov](http://cumberlandcountync.gov)
- In-person meetings:
  - July 15, 6 p.m. at Family Resource Center in Spring Lake
  - July 20, 6 p.m. at Godwin Community Building
  - July 22, 6 p.m. at J.D. Pone Recreation Center in Gray's Creek
  - July 27, 6 p.m. at Department of Social Services in Fayetteville
- Virtual input session on July 27 at 6 p.m.
- Email questions to [arp@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:arp@co.cumberland.nc.us)

4. PRESENTATION BY JUSTIN HEMBREE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MID-CAROLINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Justin Hembree, Executive Director Mid-Carolina Council of Governments, stated the state's sixteen regional Council of Governments were engaged early in the ARP process by the state pandemic recovery office and asked to be a partner in the planning, implementation and expenditure of the ARP funds. Mr. Hembree stated the regional COGs partner with the NCLM, the NCACC, the Department of Commerce and others, and are available during the ARP process to serve roles needed by the municipalities such as technical assistance, project planning and implementation. Mr. Hembree stated grant programs will also be available as part of the ARP which will provide an excellent opportunity for municipalities to leverage the ARP funds they receive to have a larger and positive impact on Cumberland County and this region. Mr. Hembree asked that municipalities not hesitate to contact the MCCOG. Mr. Hembree stated the information he will provide during this meeting will not be provided at the community meetings. Mr. Hembree provided the following PowerPoint presentation.

### Accepting, Managing and Investing ARP Funds

- Governing body must vote in official meeting to formally accept ARP funds and appoint an official or employee to take all required actions to receive funds
- May adopt resolution instead (UNC School of Government model resolution)
- Must deposit funds in official depository
- May co-mingle with other local government funds/do not need a separate bank account; funds cannot be deposited into a General Fund
- May co-mingle and invest funds only in accordance with NCGS 159-30
- Must proportionately allocate investment proceeds by fund
- May use investment proceeds from funds for any public purpose allowed by state law
- ARP funds must be appropriated before they are obligated
- May want to consider budgeting funds in a Grant Ordinance (NCGS 159-13.2)
- Grant Ordinance is established for a grant that covers both capital and operating expenses for the life of the grant
- Can also budget in a capital project fund to use for a specific capital purpose
- Be careful budgeting funds in a Capital Reserve Fund
- Must ensure ARP funds are included in a budget in the year(s) they will be obligated; budgets must be in place before the funds are obligated

### Recommended Options for ARP Funds

Special Revenue Grant Fund

Capital Project Fund

Enterprise Fund

### Problem Areas for ARP Funds

General Fund

Capital Reserve Fund

Mr. Hembree stated municipalities should be aware of audit impacts and possible changes as well Single Audit requirements for amounts received greater than \$750,000 and Yellow Book requirements for amounts received greater than \$100,000. Mr. Hembree reinforced the MCCOG is available to provide assistance in any way it can.

### 5. REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLY RICHARDSON

Representative Richardson stated this region sorely needs resources and he has never seen an unprecedented opportunity like this before. Representative Richards stated the delegation early on allocated unprecedented dollars to the federal Covid match and during this session, the delegation made a commitment during to bring every dollar it can to this community to jump start it economically. Representative Richardson enumerated categories in which unprecedented dollars/grant money will be available in addition to the federal dollars. Representative Richards stated local money needs to be used to make this community the best it can be and asked everyone to envision what can be accomplished.

## 6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Keefe invited mayor to participate in the roundtable and share some of their needs.

Falcon:

I-95 corridor with land available for economic development in order to be prepared for opportunities as they present themselves

Sewage east of I-95

New stage for Town Day

Assistance from MCCOG with grants

Eastover:

Broadband

Drainage

Combined water/sewer

Completion of ballpark project

Funding for Eastover Sanitary District

Spring Lake:

Water/sewer infrastructure in donut holes/certain places

Senior/Retiree Center

Drug/overdose assistance

Planning for growth along I-95 Exit 41

Linden:

Water/sewer expansion

Broadband

MCCOG assistance

Hazard mitigation/emergency services

Generators

Godwin

Drinking water/more water pressure

## 7. CLOSING COMMENTS

Commissioner Keefe recognized Mr. Hembree who stated do not feel like you have to spend the ARP funds right away, think about what your respective communities need, what the best way is to leverage ARP/other funds and make decisions based on your respective needs. Mr. Hembree asked everyone to reach out to the MCCOG for assistance. Ms. Cannon thanked everyone for taking time to attend the meeting. Mayor Turpin asked whether fire departments were considered an eligible use. Ms. Cannon stated they can be, but it has to be tied back to Covid response. Commissioner Adams advised the ARP funds have a claw back provision if spent on ineligible uses so if in doubt, always ask before spending.

Commissioner Keefe provided closing comments and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

8. ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Keefe moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Adams

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

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Candice H. White  
Clerk to the Board