

February 22, 2022
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a work study session at the Annex Conference Room with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Sellers and Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The Commission had a preliminary discussion on ARPA Funds. They heard what priorities were set by the Task Force for the \$12,042,385 million allocated to be spent by December 2024.

Stakeholders who spoke at the meeting were Denice Gilliland and Lisa Gleason with United Way of Reno County, President of Reno County/City of Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Debra Teufel, Hutchinson Community Foundation President/CEO Aubrey Patterson, and Interfaith Housing Director of Housing Clint Nelson.

The main topics discussed were the childcare challenge, economic development, and housing.

Ms. Gilliland spoke about partnering with K-State to collect childcare data and make a final report in October.

Mr. Hirst had a scheduled childcare zoom meeting on Thursday, February 24th with three childcare advocates and Finney County regarding their Community Boot Camp program.

Mr. Partington mentioned an EDAK meeting at which the Chamber discussed using ARPA money for childcare, housing, and industrial park assistance.

Ms. Debra Teufel spoke about a grant for an industrial park building where they could, if the application was approved, receive three to one times the funds collected. She questioned if the Commission would make a commitment of a certain amount from ARPA funds toward this grant application that was to be returned by Monday, February 28th, 2022.

Mr. Sellers introduced Mr. Clint Nelson who gave a summary of a housing model plan approximately \$1.9 million toward rural housing and \$2 million toward City of Hutchinson housing.

Ms. Aubrey Patterson was concerned the Commission would concentrate on other projects and did not want them to discount childcare since momentum was on the Task Force side toward the program.

At 12:00 the meeting recessed for twenty-five minutes.

At 12:25 the meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. The same Stakeholders in the audience returned after the break.

Mr. Partington prepared a list of project requests for future discussions:

- 1) Childcare - ARPA Taskforce
- 2) Housing - Interfaith Housing
- 3) Economic Development - Industrial Development Park infrastructure
- 4) Workforce Development - HCC request for 2 new positions
- 5) Nursing Scholarships - Hutchinson Regional Medical Center and HCC
- 6) Yoder and HABIT Infrastructure - Sewer District projects
- 10) HABIT Infrastructure - Three (3) water projects
- 11) Willowbrook Drainage - Request for assistance on larger Project
- 12) Reno County Building Needs - Health Department, Emergency Management and downtown EMS Station
- 13) Haven EMS and Public Safety - Haven has requested Equipment purchases, others may also need assistance
- 14) Contingency - Accounting assistance or other items that Come up in the next couple of years

Mr. Friesen mentioned Mental Health services in the Stepping Up Council.

Ms. Lisa Gleason briefly spoke about improving and diversion for mental health and possible crisis intervention classes connected to Stepping Up program at the Reno County Correctional Facility.

Mr. Hirst mentioned the EMS Station in Arlington where the Ambulances are larger than the current station.

Mr. Sellers mentioned Tourism for hotel/motel lost revenue assistance.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve \$1.2 million dollars of the ARPA money to support the grant application for Growth Inc. If the application was not approved the funds would return to ARPA for another Economic Development project. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

The Board directed Mr. Partington to summarize the projects and send to them.

At 12:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date