

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held a called special meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on March 1, 2022.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jerry Bragg (President), John Walstad (Vice-President), Clyde Compton, Ohmer Miller and Ed Johnson. Clerk Treasurer Diane Burton was also present.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jerry Bragg.

NEW BUSINESS:

ARP FUNDS PLAN

Scott Andrews stated they have just recently come out with guidance on how to use ARP funds. The funds can basically be used from four categories; to replace lost public sector revenue, to support Covid-19 public health and economic response, provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work, and invest in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. There are some restrictions that apply to each one of those categories. The ones that apply to you will be you cannot make any extraordinary contributions to a pension fund, you can't pay debt service, you can't replenish the rainy-day funds, you can't satisfy judgments & settlements and it can't be used for a project that conflicts with or contravenes the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act or conflict with any other federal or state laws. Page 9 states you can use the funds for revenue loss. It can be used to pay for government services in the amount equal to the revenue loss experienced by the recipient in the Covid-19. Then it gives you a standard allowance. It basically says that any recipient of the funds can use this standard allowance to spend on governmental services. That standard allowance is ten million dollars. I think you can make a decision that the entire amount can be used for government services because it is under the ten million dollars. Government services is basically defined as any service traditionally provided by the government so it can be used for construction of schools and hospitals, road building, maintenance, infrastructure, health services, general government administration staff and administrative facilities, environmental remediation, provision of police, fire and other public safety services including the purchase of fire trucks and police vehicles. It goes on to indicate that government services are the most flexible, eligible use category under the SLFRF program. The funds are subject to streamline reporting and compliance requirements.

Clyde asked for the definition of infrastructure. Scott replied that's not in this guidance. There might be something else out there that more fully defines what it is. Clyde stated the reason I ask is because we have been trying for years to get sidewalks. I've looked up the definition and I haven't found where it lists sidewalks as infrastructure. Scott clarified it does say road building maintenance and other infrastructure. I would think that sidewalks would fall under other infrastructure. Clyde suggested we have our sidewalks rated like we have done on our streets. There was more discussion on the sidewalk option.

Ed Johnson suggested the funds be used for water and sewer projects. David stated we had a meeting prior to this meeting regarding a utility planning grant. If we get the planning grant, we will need a match.

Ohmer suggested the funds be used for a new town hall. There was discussion on the new town hall plans.

Clyde shared concern for the sewer loss last year and suggested funds be used to make up that loss.

Clyde asked Scott for other options. Scott answered government services is very broad. It covers anything that you would traditionally provide. Scott stated you can provide grants for small businesses that were impacted. Clyde added you can also help small businesses get started in town. They emphasized restaurants. Scott stated restaurants were hit pretty hard. That is a targeted area for sure. Capital expenditures is another option.

Matt asked if funds can be used to purchase a police vehicle. Scott confirmed.

David asked if funds can be used for generators for the police department and the utility department. Scott stated absolutely.

Clyde suggested using some of the funds for storage. Ohmer stated we have storage here if we build a new town hall or it can be included in the new town hall. Scott stated the size of the council room during Covid would show that it's a necessary expense.

Mark Weber shared what the County was spending their funds on.

Clyde suggested some funds be used to replace the OOHR grants that were not received. Clyde stated you can also use it to demolish a building.

Clyde suggested some funds be used for Norman Park. Matt suggested using ARP funds for the cameras purchased for the utility department and Norman Park. The cost of the cameras is \$8,864

The Council agreed on the following:

\$8,864 Cameras

\$10,000 Sewer loss (for roof)

\$20,310 Generators

Summary of potential projects discussed: New Town Hall, Goshen Meadows project, Sidewalks

Clyde requested additional information from Matt on a police vehicle. Matt stated I was planning on applying for another grant this year. I would like to purchase a new pickup or a new SUV. I would like to keep the other cars that we have. The ignition went out of the animal control van. It's sitting at Hill's Auto right now. We can give the animal control van back to the county and use the charger to transport animals in since we already have a cage in it for the K9 dog. The cost is estimated to be around \$45,000.

The Council requested Matt continue to pursue the grant and ARP funds can possibly be used for the match. Ed asked how long the Council had to utilize the funds. Scott answered it has to be allocated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

John made a motion to purchase with ARP funds the air-cooled generator for the Police Department/Town Hall in the amount of \$9,930 and the Utility Department in the amount of \$10,380.00. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

Clyde made motion to pay with ARP funds the cameras purchased for the Utility Department and Norman Park. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

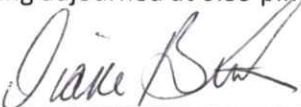
Clyde made a motion to distribute \$10,000 to the Sewer fund for revenue loss. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0. David will get some quotes for a roof for the utility building.

There was more discussion on sidewalks. Jerry suggested we continue to save and budget like we are for a new town hall. Clyde questioned who owns and who is responsible for the sidewalks. It was suggested to check with Strand to see if they have interest in rating the sidewalks for us. There was discussion on revisiting the safe routes to school plan from 2014 or 2015.

Clyde asked about the buildings behind the chiropractor's office. David answered one is owned by the Robertson's and one is owned by the McQueen's. Clyde stated they will make good storage buildings for the Town. Clyde also mentioned the storage buildings beside the town hall owned by Andrews.

The Council scheduled an Executive Session for Monday, March 7th at 5:30.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.



Attest
