

# Carter County Commission

## Minutes of:

### Health & Welfare Committee

#### ARP Funding Workshop

March 28, 2022, 6:00 PM

#### Members:

Daniel McInturff - Absent

Thomas Proffitt - Present

Robert Acuff - Present

Isaiah Grindstaff - Present

Charles Von Cannon – Present

Randall Jenkins - Present

Layla Ward – Absent

Mike Miller - Present

#### Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee Workshop was called to order by Chairman Robert Acuff at 6:10 PM.

#### 1. Roll Call

##### Voice Roll Call as Follows:

##### Present:

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Isaiah Grindstaff

Mike Miller

##### Absent:

Daniel McInturff

Layla Ward

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Motion by Mike Miller, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve.**

##### Voice Roll Call as Follows:

##### Yes:

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Isaiah Grindstaff

Mike Miller

**With six (6) yes votes, motion carried.**

#### 3. ARP Funding and Prioritization Issues

Chair Acuff stated that he sent the list out and asked the committee to look over it to see if anyone they knew was being left off. Everyone should have the proposals that have been submitted.

Thomas Proffitt asked if the constables request was supposed to be on the list. Mr. Acuff stated that the request from Bob Carrol and the constables was not on it.

Charles Von Cannon asked if all had been vetted. Chair Acuff stated that there would be some fall off the list because of incomplete proposals. The lady who sent the proposal for Grief Recovery also did not send a complete project proposal as well.

Carter View, Peters Hollow, Elizabethton City Water, are all on the TDEC list. They will qualify for those funds.

Chairman Acuff stated that this process will continue during the Health & Welfare Committee Regular Meeting in April.

#### **4. Public Comments**

Caroline Chinouth Director of the Carter County Health Department presented a letter to the committee asking for funds for infrastructure projects. The State's Financial Stimulus Accountability Group (FSAG) recently approved almost \$130 M in ARPA funding to enhance the statewide public health infrastructure through capital investments in local health departments. There is a 25% match to the state's funds. This 25% would be \$127,700 to the states 75%, \$383,200, for a total of \$510,900. This would be used only for infrastructure projects. Some of the projects would be renovation, expansion, IT, communications, HVACs, systems upgrades, signage. These are rough estimates, they are getting help to prioritize the projects from the Tennessee Department of Health, Josh Gibson who will be going to each county to help. Ms. Chinouth will provide a listing of projects that they are proposing. She stated that about 75 people come into the Health Department each day.

Members of The Friends of the Animal Shelter presented their request for funds to build a Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Clinic that will operate under their 501(c)3. The estimated cost is \$665,000 by Richardson Construction. This includes site development, paving, electrical, plumbing, interior finishing, and HVAC. This 50' x 50' turnkey metal building will supply the following: Surgical room, Surgery prep room, 3 Exam rooms, cat, and dog inside Kennels for recovery, reception, laundry, breakroom and two (2) restrooms.

Jillian Reece, Executive Director of Carter County Drug Prevention presented their proposal for ARP Funds. They are noticing increases in vaping in teens in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Increases in fatal and non-fatal overdoses in youth and adults and an increase in poor mental health. This funding will help support the local public health response and address local negative economic impacts. The \$60,000 requested will allow them to add a position that will help them expand out into the community to help keep in contact with the people in the community.

David Jones, President of the Carter Count Volunteer Fire Association presented his proposal and explained that all requests for volunteer fire departments will come through the Association. The association board is comprised of the seven (7) chiefs of the departments. Each department has requests ranging from personal equipment to fire trucks. The funding request is for \$150,000 per department. Mr. Jones attached an outline of the projects requested.

Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton came to the commission requesting funds to purchase a Ladder Truck. They are asking the county for \$1,500,000 toward this purchase. The truck that the city currently owns is 25 years old. He reminded the committee that anytime the county needed the city fire departments they were always there to help. This truck would benefit the county and the city.

Donnie Cable presented his proposal for the sub station at the Sluder Property. He and the community would like to see three things at this property. They would like to see a Rescue Squad, Fire Truck, and a place for the Highway Department to store salt for the roads in winter.

He is asking for \$225,510 to \$241,124 for an Ambulance, \$312,550 for a Fire Pumper. The total request is for \$538,060. This will save lives and protect property. This project would help the residents of Elk Mills, Poga, Little Milligan, Fish Springs, Piercetown, and Surrounding Areas. This can reduce response time from 35/45 minutes to 10/20 minutes.

Terry Arnold attended the meeting to request money from the ARP funds to purchase a new truck. The trucks range from \$225,510.00 to \$241,124.00. He reminded the committee that the workforce is still a problem.

Highway Superintendent Roger Colbaugh presented two (2) different projects that need to be funded. The Blevins Hollow Bridge Replacement (\$55,212.15) and the Danner Bridge Replacement (\$13,898.15). The state pays to build bridges, but this is the water lines that are attached to the bridges that will have to be moved. Temporary lines will have to be put in and then the permanent lines will have to be installed. Chair Acuff stated that the TDEC funds are still available. He would be happy to help get these projects on that list.

Jonathan Simerly and Daniel Estes came back before the committee with an updated estimate for the Laurels Road Waterline Project. The new estimate is \$584,750. If the city provided the labor, it could potentially save \$199,068 by performing this in house.

Chairman Acuff stated again that he would clean up the list and send it out to the members. He stated that they can continue to discuss the projects at the regular called meeting of the Health & Welfare meeting. The May meeting is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and because of the Primary Election the meeting will be moved to Thursday May 5, 2022. This will get the meeting in before the next Financial Management and Budget meetings.

#### **5. Commissioner Comments**

Mr. Jenkins stated that in adding all the requests they are going to have to cut some of the projects presented.

Chair Acuff agreed that they committee will have some hard decisions ahead.

Brad Johnson stated that the Financial Management has been looking at outside bonding agents to have options to fund some of the projects like the communications system.

Mr. Johnson asked about the nonprofit organizations that the county supports. If they can show what their losses are they can apply for some of the funding to help get themselves back on track. He believes that some of them may not even know that they can take advantage of this opportunity.

Isaiah Grindstaff asked if the Water Department Projects needed to be removed from the list. Chair Acuff stated that they would be on a list of their own. Mayor Woodby stated that all these projects would need to apply for TDEC funds and whatever they receive the county will be required to match.

Charles Von Cannon stated that some of the projects just are not worth the money that is being asked for them. Those should be cut from the list.

#### **6. Adjourn**

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Charles Von Cannon to adjourn. All in favor, meeting adjourned.**