

## Minutes, Thursday July 29, 2021

Mr. Lammers moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Putnam County Local Emergency Planning Committee is responsible for maintaining and tracking the reporting of hazardous materials in Putnam County and responding to incidents where hazardous materials are released, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that The Board of Putnam County Commissioners does hereby agree to add/renew the following as members of the Putnam County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC):

### LEPC MEMBERS:

Tom Bacome	5779 Old SR 224, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Angela Recker	Health Dept., 256 Williamstown Rd, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
R. Heidenescher	Mayor of Dupont, 403 E. Cedar, Dupont	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Jack Williams	Village of Ottawa, 336 E. Main, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Nancy Kline	5014 Road N5, Pandora	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
John Love	Love Funeral Home, 405 E 3rd St, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Brian Siefker	Sheriff's Office, 1035 Heritage Trail, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
W.D. Miller	Communications, Box 283, Ottoville	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Michael L. Klear	Office of Public Safety, PO Box 370, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Stephanie Moore	Office of Public Safety, PO Box 370, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Jan L. Osborn	School Superintendent, 124 Putnam Pkwy, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Eric Siefker	Pro-Tec Coating, 5000 CR 5, Leipsic	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Karen Vorst	St. Rita's Medical Center, 601 St Rt 224, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Vincent Schroeder	Commissioner, 245 E Main, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Michael Lammers	Commissioner, 245 E Main, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
John Schlumbohm	Commissioner, 245 E Main, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
David Niese	Township Chairman, 4633 Rd 13C, Leipsic	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Dan Rieman	Ottawa Fire Department, 136 N. Oak, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Nancy Erhart	Office of Public Safety, PO Box 370, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Brad Brubaker	Sheriff's Office, 1035 Heritage Trail, Ottawa	8-11-21 to 8-9-23

### LEPC OFFICERS:

Chairperson - R. Heidenescher	Mayor of Dupont	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Vice Chairperson - John Love	Love Funeral Home	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Emergency Coordinator - Michael L. Klear	Office of Public Safety	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Information Coordinator - Stephanie Moore	Office of Public Safety	8-11-21 to 8-9-23
Secretary - Deb Kaufman	Office of Public Safety	8-11-21 to 8-9-23

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm absent      Mr. Schroeder yes      Mr. Lammers yes  
Comm. Jrl. 116 Page 380

Mr. Schroeder moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

that to provide for the unanticipated expenditures of said County during fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, the following sums be and the same are hereby transferred, set aside and appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

From Fund 006, Public Assistance (H 35, Transfer Out).....to..... Fund 003, Children Services (SS13, Transfer In).....\$ 10,840.26

(Kinship caregiver)

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm absent Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes  
Comm. Jrl. 116 Page 381

### **Now and Then Purchase orders**

**Capital Improvement**.....Purchase order 42996

**Planning Commission**.....Purchase order 43037

**Landfill Closure/Mnt**....purchase order 42576

Mr. Lammers moved to approve the then and now purchase orders.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm absent Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes  
Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Schroeder none Mr. Lammers none  
Comm. Jrl. 116 , Page 382

### **Purchase orders and travel requests**

**Children Services**.....Purchase order to Scott Mc Williams for adoption assistance for \$ 1000.00. Purchase order to Mohican Young Star Academy for \$ 34609.00

**Public Assistance** .....Blanket purchase order for \$ 10,000.00.

Mr. Schroeder moved to approve the purchase orders and travel requests.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm absent Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes  
Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Schroeder none Mr. Lammers none

Mr. Lammers called the meeting to order with Mr. Schroeder by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers discussed setting up a meeting for Sewer district #1 residents to get everyone informed what the Commissioners are doing and what actions are

being taken. The operator of record information needs to be shared with them also. The information from Bockrath & Assoc is also needed. The Commissioners called Greg Bockrath to see how far he was in getting the easements signed.

Mike Klear stopped in to give Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers an update on the personnel case, there are negotiations for the settlement amount. Counter offers were discussed. Commissioners set a top offer not to exceed. There will be a meeting on Tuesday with the legal counsel.

Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers and Jeremy Gerding and Ryan Moran of the Engineer's office held a bid opening for the Norman Liebrecht Dt # 988. Estimate is \$109,000.

The bids were received as follows:

Contractor	Bid Bond	Bid Amount
Kahle Excavating	10% check	\$ 86,298.20
Sand Ridge Excavating	bid bond	\$ 105,872.40
Fenson Contracting	bid bond	\$ 94,315.60
Advanced Demolition	bid bond	\$ 91,571.20

Mr. Lammers moved to table the bids for further review.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Schlumbohm absent Schroeder yes Lammers yes

Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers called Greg Bockrath to discuss the Sewer Dist #1 project. They are still looking at other funding avenues possibly HB 168. The Commissioners explained that they want to send a letter to the residents of SD #1. The Commissioners need Greg's info for the letters. Also needed is the info from the Village showing the cost savings to the residents for the repairs, the expenses of the operators of record were discussed also. There are questions arising from the residents after seeing the flags out in the area. There needs to be some kind of communication to them. Greg suggested a project update letter to the residents just to share what is being done. The projected billing info after the improvements would be helpful info to share, since cost is the biggest question. The Commissioners want to share with them that they are trying to save the residents money in their rates. The Village may not have the billing info yet. The current billing was discussed with the rates being figured off the metered use. At the last public meeting the project was favorable but the costs were a concern. Greg explained all the avenues that have been sought for funding for this project. When these drainage issues get corrected the Village could take over the sewer operation and possibly lower the monthly usage rates.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers and Cindy Landwehr. Clerk.

The minutes from Tuesday July 27, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers held discussions on allowable ARP expenses and sales tax reduction. Bob Benroth, Gary Lammers, Tracy Warnecke, Kim Redman, Lori Rayle,

Mike Lenhart and Joe Burkhart joined the discussion also. Comm. Lammers brought up the SCBA testing equipment that is in need of upgrading they will allocate \$20,000 of ARP toward that upgrade. The proposed allocation of the ARP funds was listed as \$3.28551 million

Sales tax cut of .25% =\$1 M

EMAS vehicle=\$48,000.00

Upgrade EMA emergency ops center =\$38,577.00

SCBA =\$ 20,000.00

Courthouse- digital scanning of documents =\$ 125,000 Engineer, Recorder, & Commissioner

Workforce Development \$50,000 per year

Fire departments= \$380,000

Setting aside for fairgrounds improvements =\$1 M. New vaccine site building and other improvements.

\$425,500 approx. left to allocate of the \$3.2 mill

Vince said the fairgrounds improvements may be more than the \$1M, He also stated they are waiting on figures to confirm the sales tax replacement. There was a question of eligibility of some of the expenses that were earmarked for the ARP funds. Gary questioned some of the workforce development expenses as being eligible. They will be reviewed. Joe asked about the new building at the fairgrounds if the health department would be able to have input on the building design. Vince said other buildings could be used for vaccinations as well. Using the money for a building at the fairgrounds would be to clean the money up. There were other items brought up that would be qualified expenses also. New generator at the jail and such. The capital improvement money will be spent on other projects for the county, new courthouse chiller, new roofs as well as a new fairground building. The Commissioners are not sure of the second round of funding now since some other entities had their portions lessened. If the county uses government funds, how can they rent out the use of the building for profit? Was asked by the Engineer. If a fair price is set for rent the money can be reinvested within the county. The use of the fairgrounds building as a vaccine site was brought up and they did not want cars inside the building. Lenhart asked if the Engineer was going to get any money allocated to them also for roads? Lenhart has noticed an improved budget from the license and gas taxes. Comm Lammers added that the public is happy with the Engineer and his care of the roads. Bob brought up the loss of revenue there is a maximum amount that can be used for the loss. The expenses for the ARP funds must be documented for the audit. Some of the hours of the Sheriff office can be used for reimbursement under ARP. Any hours put towards administering the ARP funds can be reimbursed to the general fund. The excess money in the general funds was transferred to capital improvement funds to prepare for the possible replacement of the Annex building if needed. Bob explained that the courthouse repairs that were done in the past were prepared for in advance as well. There are four eligible use categories for the ARP fund expenses. Bob listed the categories. One of the categories lists infrastructure and water improvements which would include storm water and sewer. It is more restrictive compared to the previous administration. Each expense must have an explanation. What mechanism do the Commissioners have in place to make sure the fire department spend it the way that is

allowable? These entities will be audited for the expenses also. If it is not spent on an allowable expense it would need to be paid back. The fire department should have to present a plan for the expenses then the money can be issued to them. Most of them intend to use the money toward more SCBA units for each member to have their own unit so as not to share. Kim brought up the plumbing and the improvements needed and the repairs that occurred from the leaking plumbing. Mr. Lammers asked that any needed repairs be passed to maintenance ASAP, and they will be addressed. The issue of fire suppression for the courthouse, even though it is grandfathered it being a historical building, was brought up. The Commissioners feel it would compromise the historical integrity. There is not a fire ladder within the County that would reach the third or fourth floors. The costs will be reviewed. Kim asked about the \$50,000 allocated for workforce development coordinator for the CIC office does that include benefits? Tracy does not agree with the lowering of sales tax at this time, maybe in another year or two. Lori agreed with Tracy. The sales tax will not be lowered yet this year. The Commissioners are looking to come to an agreement by Apr 1. Mr. Lenhart asked if the sales tax reduction would be a qualifying expense for the ARP funds. Comm. Lammers said there are 8 counties wanting to use the funds to lower their sales tax but there is no list that show which counties they are. Commissioner Lammers respects the opinions but does not agree with them. Lowering the sales would create more issues with planning the budget. Comm. Lammers says it would be budget neutral. Bob says that way would be illegal and Auditor Benroth will not go to jail for him because that is how Commissioners Lammers wants to do it. Commissioners Lammers is not aware of the rules and should not be making promises and decisions to lower the tax if it is not legal to do so to refill the budget. Mr. Lammers stated he respects Mr. Benroth and his opinion but disagrees because of AG Yost law suit two weeks ago that seems to allow local tax authority and ARP funding of operations. Bob explained that the previous commissioners wanted to borrow money and he did not agree to it, so he is making sure the county is solvent and in good financial shape now. The Commissioners are aware that the officials and employees do look out for the taxpayers and do respect the jobs that they do. Lori asked about how this would affect the county. By putting money back in taxpayer pockets The Officials are concerned that the timing should be considered very prudently on this decision. Can this money be put in the general funds to reduce taxes if it is not a qualified expense? The officials want to make sure the expenses are qualified and the plans that are proposed are allowable and legal. Joe is not in favor of lowering the sales tax at this time either. THE ARP funds cannot be used as a budget figure. The reimbursement figures will be covered by the ARP funds. Similar to a shell game putting money back into the budget to replace what was spent. There will still need to be something done with the Annex building. Inflation is real and the costs are going up so that will also affect the budget. The wage increases will also affect the budget. The future solar farm money will help to cover the wage increases. The interest rates are down and are going to stay down. The health care insurance costs could also go up. The sales tax distribution does not always stay within the county. Gary advises the Commissioners to not make promises for the ARP money until the guidelines are clarified. Gary also feels the sales tax reduction decision would be premature at this time. No preconceived ideas or notions should be had. Revenue streams are uncertain, be cautious. Gary advised to make an informed decision at the right time. The Commissioners welcomed the input from the elected officials. The elected officials would like to be consulted before a sales tax decision is made. The officials feel there needs to be more communication between the departments. There should be another meeting held when a decision is being considered regarding the sales tax. The Juneteenth holiday was also

brought up and the lack of communication on a clear decision to the offices about the observance of the holiday.

Mr. Schroeder moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote Schlumbohm absent Schroeder yes Lammers yes

Mr. Lammers moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, July 29, 2021.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm abstain Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes