

# MINUTES

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

DRAFT

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

Uptown North Main

975 N. Main, Frankenmuth, MI

**Present:** Sheldon Matthews - Committee Chair, Christopher Boyd, Carol Ewing, Dennis Krafft, Gerald Little, Carl Ruth, Jack Tany, Michael Webster, Cynthia Winiecke

**Absent:** James Theisen, Kyle Harris

**Others:** Vanessa Guerra, Robert Belleman, Bill Smith, Koren Thurston, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Jessica Sargent, Jamie Furbush, Vern Notestine, Mike Alsgaard, G. Grossi, Amy Deford, Lee Peterson, Norm Bamberger, Zack Robinson, Audrey Beatty, Tom Gerding, Margaret Gerding, Heidi Tracy, Dennis Fent, Tarsha Works, Erin Hustings, Irma Olguin Jr., Elisha Vicary, Cathy Baase, Tony Anna, Suzy Koeplinger, Cindy Louchart, Hannah Olsen

I. Call to order---**Matthews at 4:06 p.m.**

II. Welcome / Roll-Call

III. Public comment (*Speakers limited to 3 minutes*)

1. G. Grossi, Owner, da Vinci's Restaurant in Frankenmuth – **Mr. Grossi presented to the Board a Medical/Sports Complex that is currently in the works. According to feasibility studies, the complex would bring in \$400 million in the first five (5) years. In the first year, it is projected that 15,000 rooms will be booked, with room bookings spilling over into Birch Run, Saginaw Township, Bay City, Midland, and Genesee County.**

2. Brian Keenan-Lechel, Director, Parks and Recreation – **Mr. Keenan-Lechel spoke to the board about Parks and Recreation's request for ARPA funding that the committee will be presented with at the December Committee of the Whole meeting and to ask that the commissioners continue to consider premium pay for County employees.**

IV. Agenda

~~1. Presentation on School District of the City of Saginaw Bond 2020 – Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent (Moved to December 13, 2021 CoW at YMCA)~~

2. External Requests for ARPA Funding

A. Bitwise Industries – Irma Olguin, CEO

**---Ms. Olguin presented to the committee Bitwise Industries' request for ARPA Funding to expand their location to Saginaw. Bitwise has six different cities that they are located in and are currently looking at three (3) other cities to expand to, with Saginaw being one of them. When asked by Commissioner Little about the success rate of their current cities, Ms. Olguin indicated that they have a 100% hiring rate for those that have completed their apprenticeships at Bitwise, with 90% of apprentices staying in their hometown.**

- B. James Township – Edward Hak, Supervisor  
*---Mr. Hak presented to the committee James Township's request for ARPA Funding to make necessary upgrades to the Fire Department, including replacing equipment, creating more contamination areas, an exhaust removal system, and resolving other pandemic related issues. Commissioner Boyd indicated that while the committee would be looking at and considering Mr. Hak's request, that there is \$414 million available to the township in grants that may be another option for the Fire Department to consider.*
- C. Albee Township Fire Department – Tom Gerding, Fire Chief  
*---Mr. Gerding presented to the committee Albee Township Fire Department's request for up to \$44,000 in ARPA Funding to upgrade their air cascade system. Mr. Gerding indicated that the department had received estimates of \$34,000 - \$44,000 depending on the product. The fire department is currently using equipment purchased in 1985, for which parts cannot be found to make repairs anymore. Along with this, they currently have to take their air tanks to other fire departments to refill them, as they cannot at their own location.*
- D. Taymouth Township Fire Department – Dennis Fent, Supervisor  
*---Mr. Fent presented to the committee Taymouth Township Fire Department's request for ARPA Funding to install an air-vac filtration system, as they have none currently, and to purchase a legacy compressor system that they would like to go 50/50 with the township on. Mr. Fent also indicated that he would like to request broadband funding.*

### 3. Internal Requests for ARPA Funding

- A. Employee Healthcare – Amy Deford, Retirement & Benefit Administrator  
*---Ms. Deford presented to the committee the request for \$442,000+ in ARPA funding to help offset the cost of claims that was underestimated by Aetna. There was discussion of whether or not ARPA funds could even be used for this, which Mr. Belleman explained that the amount that is being asked is to cover only claims related directly to Covid-19. Discussion was had about what does and does not count as related to Covid-19, and other options that could be used to help bridge the cost of the transition. Motioned by Krafft, seconded by Ruth, to refer the decision on the use of ARPA funds for employee healthcare to the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.*

### 4. Old Business

- A. Consulting Services – Guidehouse  
*---Mr. Belleman brought back references from other counties, per the request of the committee members. Wayne, Oakland, and Clint County all gave their recommendations in having Guidehouse assist them with their delegation of ARPA funds. Commissioner Krafft mentioned that he had asked local companies if there was interest in bidding, but that none had the labor force/capacity to be able to handle the County's needs. Motioned by Webster, seconded by Krafft, to refer the decision on consultant services to the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.*

### 5. Board of Commissioners - Discussion

- A. Motions to refer  
*--- Motioned by Krafft, seconded by Ruth, to refer Agenda Item 3A, the decision on the use of ARPA funds for employee healthcare, to the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.*  
*--- Motioned by Webster, seconded by Krafft, to refer Agenda Item 4A, the decision on consultant services, to the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Next Committee of the Whole meeting

**---The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be on December 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in Saginaw at the YMCA.**

C. Joint meeting with City of Saginaw and School District of the City of Saginaw to discuss ARPA funding requests

D. Other

V. Miscellaneous---**None**

VI. Adjournment---**Moved by Krafft, seconded by Ewing, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 5:44 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheldon Matthews, Committee Chair

Vanessa Guerra, County Clerk

Suzy Koeplinger, Committee Clerk