

MINUTES
County Board Executive Committee
MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, October 4, 2021
5:30 p.m.
ROE Conference Room

PRESENT: Kent Snider, Mark Peter, Dave Bellis, Barb Fletcher, Bret Austin

ABSENT: No One

OTHER: Gary Farha, Rich Wagner, Bryden Cory, Ryan Niekamp, Sid Wilson, Jerrod Welch, and Anthony Foster

5:30 pm meeting was convened.

Bills

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Barb Fletcher and seconded by Bret Austin. The minutes are approved as written.

Speaker

None

Reports

None

Resolutions

ARPA

Bryden says that the Ace program was approved verbally by the executive board last month. It's only \$50,000 and it's a great program, but when Mr. Cory and Mr. Foster sat to approve budget and expense lines, there was nothing to go off of to know where this money was going or how to structure it. There needs to be some written guidance on the resolution. Committee agreed at the beginning to keep Bellwether involved in ARPA related discussions, since they are being paid to do so. With the resolutions Bellwether has been good about finding the exact reasons why these resolutions could be justified to be covered by the ARPA funding. Mr. Snider asked if it had been run by Bellwether previously and board members responded that it had not been. Bret Austin stated he would call them. Mr. Austin asked if we had already done this for the elevators and Bryden stated they had but Bellwether had provided the exact section that was in support of that resolution. It's still moving forward Bryden just needs the written guidance.

Old Business

None

New Business

Health Department HVAC

Jerrod Welch has handouts of three different routes to complete the Health Department's HVAC project. He states he's there to discuss the cost points and Sid will be discussing the issues of the current system and explaining the proposals.

Proposal #1- (\$1.8 million) This is the one the Health Department is favoring to request the county to support. It involves ripping out units (2-3) to use more of the forced air system which is more traditional. Takes the VRV system completely out using some of the ductwork and replacing it with a more traditional system and non-proprietary which allows it to be serviced locally.

Proposal #2- Is a boiler system but it wasn't explored too much due to cost.

Proposal #3- (\$1.2 million) Is an exact replacement of what the health department had before. For \$600,000 more there can be a more non-proprietary and traditional system put in place. Currently it's an all electrical system and they are looking into switching that over to gas.

Sid says the current system uses outside air and uses the same equipment year-round. Not a bad system when it's first installed but with the cold and frosty weather it's very expensive to upkeep the current system. With using the regular conventional rooftop units, they are made to withstand outside weather conditions of different types. Sid supplied Bric with the numbers to figure out costs not only now but in the long run. The numbers are based on BTU's and natural gas using the #1 system Adams County is looking at \$2.75 per million BTU which was directly obtained from the gas prices and the current electrical system is costing \$22.03 per million BTU. The quote given is based on getting two units, but there is also an option of having a third unit, so each floor has its own unit. There would be extra ductwork required for a third unit, but Jerrod believes it's something worth exploring. The Adams County Health Department has 11-12 years of history in this building, and they are constantly replacing compressors and chip boards. The system has been, since year one or two, having maintenance issues. There may have been some upfront issues from the beginning with this system that were not taken into consideration when it comes to extreme weather conditions and how much maintenance would be required. Bret asks what had been agreed upon when they set out with ARPA, and the consensus was around \$1 million. Jerrod stated that it was almost doubled but it's better to be cautious and have extra than not have enough. Sid states the estimate is not cast in stone it's just a number to get the ball rolling. The amount would not be due all at once. The project itself would be done in phases with the third payment due in May of 2022. Jerrod is unsure of when payments would be due for sure but wants three units to be considered. If they go with three units each floor will be down for about a month so it will be worked on in phases over March April and May starting from the top floor. The main floor is the dental clinic, and they need that phase to go quickly. For contingencies there are two mobile laboratories in the wellness express. There are two wings of the dental clinic so they are looking at keeping one wing open at a time so there will not be a full shut down. April would be the time frame to shoot for doing the main floor and hopefully they will have that floor done as soon as possible. Kent Snider is wondering if county will have another installment of ARPA funds before the money is due for this project. Jerrod is unaware when the money would be due exactly. There's no thermal protection between the layers. If there are two units one would be for the 1st and 2nd floor and the other would cover the 3rd. The company to put the new system in only does HVAC. Sid says three units would be more efficient if there's enough funding for it. Jerrod had not expected this project to start in the spring he was hoping more for fall, but there is a service

contract open with a company called TMI that basically comes in and patches up the old system. Jerrod was initially worried about coming in with the higher estimates as it was more expensive, but if the board is willing to proceed the \$1.8 million is the cost they are looking at. Bret Austin pointed out that with the current system has been costing about ten times as much as a new system to keep it operational and this has been going on for a long time. Barbara Fletcher asks if the maintenance issues have been happening a lot. Board members assure her it has been. Bret Austin asks if anyone has a connection to what is going on at the Kroc Center Sid was not aware if it was the same system. However, the school district had purchased the same system. TMI has hired Rick Selser from maintenance at the high school to be fixing their system. Now the school district has hired TMI for \$200 instead of \$50 an hour. He's bouncing around to fix these systems and keep them running. Bret Austin is asking if there's a chance to get a ratio from the Kroc Center as it is larger than the Health Department building or the contractor working for them? Jerrod stated Chris Larson is on the board with the Health Department as well as the Kroc Center. He may know some of that information. Bret stated he'd try to get in touch with Chris Larson to see how valid it is because the materials and stuff he says there's probably no other choice than to execute this project in the spring. Failure to hit a deadline in January is a lot different than failing to hit a deadline in April. There were three bids and two were local. Bric specializes in this and they've worked on the new jail project and the Vet's home. Dave Bellis asks that since the board has already got a dollar amount approved if the board should wait till they get further into the project to do like a second year thing. Bret Austin states there was always going to be a second vote for the final number on this project so the health department might as well go ahead with bids.

Motion is made by Bret Austin to have the health department move towards getting a bid base for 2 units and alternate bids for 3 units and come back with those. Dave Bellis seconded the motion, motion carries.

Union Negotiations

Bret Austin states they have met with all of the FOP bargaining unit- Patrol Sergeants, Corrections Sergeants, and Court Services and the initial proposals have been made on all so they are all ready for bargaining with the county. Next will be the patrol officers (non-sergeants) and the corrections officers (non-sergeants) which is the other labor relation board. So far, the negotiator has not had time to get to Quincy to meet. In previous years, it's always been this way that the FOP is done quickly, and the other union takes a little more time. The highlights are as follows:

Juneteenth Holiday- holidays are stacking up about 15 total but there's a possibility of switching out with President's Day or allowing individuals to celebrate for one or the other, but that's going to depend on what other counties are doing in the state. Trying to make it consistent across the board.

Wage- requested 3.5, 3.5, 3.5. The city has already agreed to a couple in the 2.5 and 2.75 range over 3 years and the county is looking to do 3-year contracts as well. By off cycling things a bit with the 2-year contracts they can keep law enforcement to every three years with clerk negotiations set for next year and the 4-year contracts are more highway department and mechanics. They are grouped by work areas.

Covid Pay- one-time payment of \$2500 hazard duty pay. This is all over the map. Pike County is considering it. McDonough County has already done it but may come to regret it as they left it open ended, and it may cause some animosity among their employees. Only 15% of it's employees

are receiving checks. It's only targeted towards front line workers and doesn't consider essential employees such as clerks that were in contact with people daily for tax payments etc. Mr. Austin worries about the grey area of deciding who deserves the pay versus who does not. Bret Austin says he believes this should still be a no, however, there are so many other counties doing it. Also need to take into consideration how many constituents are seeing this and thinking they were in more contact with more people than the county employees and they didn't receive hazard pay. Kent Snider stated some of the local grocers and box stores have compensated their employees with big bonuses. It's all coming down to not who should or shouldn't get it but how much they should receive and how it's become a recruitment for new employees comparable to a sign on bonus. There's an inevitability to it, but there really needs to be a plan going into it, so it's not left open ended or upsetting other employees. A lot of other union groups will be negotiating this once their contracts expire in next couple years and should they lower the amount for each group negotiating because they are another year away from the effects of Covid? This would just be for the unions that are negotiating right now, what about unions negotiating later and non-union staff? Gary Farha brought up that EMS got money that the sheriff's department didn't receive, and it was really a cause of dissention among the officers from what he heard. The Adams County Health Department received \$2.8 million yet the sheriff's department got the wrong end of a judgement for housing prisoners. Rich Wagner stated he will back all the officers because he would like to see them get something as their department head. They had to wear the masks, make traffic stops, they had to go in the houses, they had to be around the prisoners even those that were Covid positive because they had no choice. Bret says the inmate exposure and the having to go into houses on a call are completely black and white and understandable for the request of hazard pay. Rich Wagner still backs the covid hazard pay for his officers because they would go into these houses even when the dispatcher would tell them they are entering Covid positive households. Mark Peter asks if this is a one-time payment or if it's to extend annually for the length of the contract. Bret Austin states it is a one-time payment. Mr. Peter asks how many people this will be paid out to based just in this contract. Bret Austin states it would cover every single person in these five that are bargaining (3 in FOP, 2 in PBPA) which is equal to about 81 employees. So, if this is done it will have to be done for all. Mr. Peter asks if this is something the ARPA funds could be used for. Bret Austin says yes, it is totally qualified. Approximately the payout would be about \$202,000 total just for those in these current negotiations. Kent Snider and Bret Austin figured up how much it would cost to get everyone in the county a \$2500 payment, including EMS as that money went to EMS as a department not to individual employees, it would be approximately \$967,000 for everyone to get a \$2500 check. Probation department worked from home for months do they deserve a \$2500 check? Circuit Clerk was the same way. Highway department didn't work closely with Covid positive people, but they did put in a lot of hours with the Covid testing site. There's no real good answer to this and Bret Austin is open to guidance on it as it's been kicked around for the last three months.

Taking Out Scoring/Points Contract Language - striking out all the wellness incentive language from the contracts because it's not being done anymore the employee is now paying 10% into their insurance premium. The union is agreeing to take the language out of the contract.

Post-Employment Health Insurance- anyone that retires in good standing with 20 years of service or more would have their health insurance

paid for by the county for 6 months after termination date. It's not very many that make it to 20 years so it's probably not a huge cost. But this could open the door for future negotiations to ask for less time in with the county to qualify for county paid insurance and/or covering twelve months health insurance instead of six months. Not that the union negotiators are not trustworthy, but it's just one of those things that could get more complicated than it needs to be. People that retire at this point, can automatically stay on the health insurance, and just pay the full premium. At twenty years of service most of these groups are also receiving a pretty good pension at that time also.

Duration of Signature- duration of the contract would be 3-year contract and everyone is agreed to that.

Bret asks for Rich's opinion because from what he has heard most of the officers would rather have their dues paid to the legal defense fund which is a liability protection fund especially with the changes to the qualifications for immunity and how it's considered qualified or not qualified and how cases are being brought directly against officers. Mr. Austin wants to know Mr. Wagner's opinion on if this gets talked about a lot. This option is \$68 per year per employee. Rich Wagner says he's investigated that as well but believes it won't cover the officers in the way they think it will cover them, but if used as a recruitment vehicle he is all for it. Bret states that as far as negotiating this goes, he'd like to end the gun range coverage part of it because there are not many employees in the program, and it all seems to be going to one entity over others. It doesn't seem to be a widely used benefit. Officers and sergeants seem to be more worried about liability and coverage so it might mean something to new officers coming into the profession that they have some protection. This could be a token offered as a tradeoff for the wage request. Canceling out the gun range membership could be a possibility. Rich agrees there hasn't been a large amount of interest in it, and they had a surplus last year by over half. There are talks of the PBPA joining the police range out on Deters Lane so in the future Rich hopes that the sheriff's department will be doing all their qualifying and shooting at that range which will be at no cost to the county or the employee. Bret states since there are options there it might be a good thing to throw into negotiations. Rich would like to see the county still contribute something to the PBPA for allowing the whole sheriff's department (not just PBPA members) use of the gun range. Bret agreed he would be okay with a usage fee the board could pay once a year as a gratitude for allowing the sheriff's department use of the facility and to help with general maintenance if it doesn't become an issue about who is using it more.

So far discussions have been positive, Bret Austin is happy working with Jerry he's strong for his union, but very fair. But the PBPA guy, Dean, is not advocating for his union by not showing up to meet for negotiations. Rich Wagner says he has not personally met Dean, but when they were trying to get their MOU where the deputies and court security could work in the jail to cut back on the hire back Dean was horrible to work with. Bret Austin was reminded by this to mention to the committee members that several of the officers that have started in the jail working as corrections officers some have moved to patrol, they've asked if they could go back to the jail to pick up extra shifts it would give some flexibility to an understaffed sheriff's department and Bret believes that the committee should support it. Rich explains further that they are constantly doing this hire back to have enough staff in the jail. The sheriff's department has been mandating their officers to come to work even if they have a family plan. Prior to mandating, with this MOU, they were able to approach patrol officers or court security about working the shifts so they didn't have to mandate the corrections officers and they could get their time off. Bret Austin states this is a ripple effect of Covid, but something that already existed. It's something that will get better down the road and may have to be added again

in the future but not something that needs added into the union contract its more like an add on. Rich explains the MOU expires in 90 days and is signed by both unions after it expires, they reevaluate if it's still needed, they go back to have it signed again similar to a three-month lease. Bret Austin says he sees no problem with that it could save on losing an employee because of burnout.

Budget

Ryan Niekamp brings up that the full vote on the budget is scheduled for November 9th and they only have a 30-day window to make that public before the vote, so they are not in violation of county codes. He asks if they just publish what they have gotten or go with estimations. Bret Austin admits county is behind on having budget ready and asks Ryan Niekamp to find out a date it must be out by. Ryan Niekamp responded it would be due this Sunday (October 11th) unless they want to have a special board meeting sometime later in November. Kent agreed to it and so does Bret Austin. Mr. Snider went on to explain to get out a tentative budget and the clock will start ticking at that time. Bret Austin states he can have a tentative one ready to go out by Friday (October 8th), but there will be changes made to it as there are some budget items that still have not been discussed yet so whatever goes out Friday will be tweaked. Ryan Niekamp agreed to watermarking these as a rough draft and not final copy in order to get them out in time. Bret Austin states by 3 pm Tuesday (October 5th) he expects to have all the departments tentative budgetary requests put together. There are some things that will need to be discussed in these, but it's looking cleaner this year.

Bryden Cory and Ryan Niekamp met with CIC about a budgeting software tool that if the county switches to it Bryden would like to do the whole financial package. Mr. Niekamp states it does everything they are needing it to do. It was designed by county officials across the country so everything necessary is on it. It's different format than what Ryan Niekamp was expecting as it based out of Microsoft Access but it's better than the current budgeting software. Bryden Cory states that what the county has now is like the Rolls Royce of programs it's very fancy looks very professional it is its own system. CIC software is more basic more user friendly because it's not so overbent. The key selling point is it has an integrated budgeting feature that flows directly in real time with the financial software. Right now, in order to show the committee updated budgets on what has been spent at this point in the year it has to be done manually because there have been amendments and updates made to line items, so it takes extra time, and it takes advanced employees in Excel to pull those numbers with the new program there would be none of that as the program keeps track in real time. Mr. Cory states he doesn't have any qualms about the existence of the information but would need to involve Information Technology in any higher-level conversations regarding security from hackers or cyber-attacks if they decide to pursue getting this software. Bryden Cory says he is familiar with a few treasurers that are currently operating with this software and if they are using this software, it's good choice Mr. Cory plans to meet with these treasurers soon to discuss their thoughts on the software. FE, the current system, has lost eleven counties in Illinois in just the last year. This would be a replacement for the FE program. When the county originally contracted with FE it was originally purchased for a one-time price of \$30,000-40,000 with annual fees. Those annual costs keep going up. CIC has better price lockage without the \$500-800 jumps in annual fees. The customer service will be more responsive and although that has not been an issue for Mr. Cory it happens consistently for Mr. Niekamp. The customer service prioritizes customer service calls by things they can handle now, tomorrow, next week etc. so there will be a time estimate as to when something will be handled. Ryan Niekamp states that if the committee would like a condensed version of the presentation given by CIC to show them what the benefit to this program is he can make arrangements for that. Mark Peter agreed he'd like to see the presentation. As far as writing reports, it will look professional, and the committee should not notice much of a change in the information they receive. Mark Peter said cyber security would be his greatest concern. Mr. Niekamp said it would be placed on the new in-house server which

is currently being replaced to the newest and best equipment available and they would be backed up in two to three different locations across the country. From a cyber security standpoint, it doesn't have the two-factor authentication on it, but a lot of programs the county has do not have that currently. Most of the cyber security the county would be responsible for. This is not a web-based service which is a downfall but helps keep it more secure. Bret Austin said to move forward with that and if it's got a module that updates in real time it would be extremely helpful. Mr. Cory adds it will also track the levy overall percentage. Currently, FE won't even show the budget correctly. It really isn't built for county offices and CIC is made by county offices and therefore has all the items needed for the county departments.

ARPA

Kent Snider states that there is a proposal from the Adams County Fair. Mark Peter says that the proposal is for the new restroom only with the new water supply line and rebuilding a new septic system. It's for the entire project. Then there's also the lost revenue from them \$117,000 from not being able to host the county fair in 2020 due to Covid. All of these are cost estimates as opposed to actual bids it's impossible to get actual bids on this. They had once talked about doing half one year and half the other, so the county is not burning through the first year's money as fast. The fair can get a line of credit and go ahead on carrying through with at least one of these projects forward get the work done before moving on to the other. Bret Austin stated it can not carry a line of credit for the revenue shortfall because it must be a tangible thing with accounts receivable. So, if they will do both that has to go first. They will have to take care of the shortfall first then will have to say do it and tell the contractor they will be reimbursed from the appropriate account once it's available. The contractor will not be able to start this far into fall anyway they'd have to wait until the spring and have it done by summer. If loss is counted on this year's ARPA and the restroom is included on the next ARPA that would work out for the fair. Adams County Fair is the largest agricultural event and can't forget that this isn't just one fair that happens its constant work year-round with livestock, training, 4-H, and getting younger generations interested in farming it's about continuation of those programs. Cost estimates in these bids are all companies from Adams County also so the money is remaining in the county. It looks good for Adams County to support countywide operations first before they are approached to help finance city projects later. Ryan Niekamp says that the villages can receive ARPA funding as well, but they will have to apply for it versus how the county was just sent a check. Bret Austin explains further that the federal government gave counties checks because they were large enough to divvy up, but cities and towns were more difficult. The city had to go through the state to get theirs and the state takes an administrative fee from that. It was easier to send to counties than small towns such as Camp Point. The state has an application and it's meant to say that city or town would like the money that is in escrow for them. Mark Peter states that is good to know because once the Adams County Fair request goes through there will be requests from smaller villages such as Paloma. Barbara Fletcher states that some of these smaller villages are already making requests for restrooms in their local parks so this information would be useful to the villages. Kent Snider states there's a website that shows how much money is available and it needs to be marketed to the email addresses of these villages. They can get access thru the application process through the state. Bret Austin states that the consultant for the county has already been paid so it shouldn't be at a cost to the villages to offer their services to them as well even if the county has to cover a small cost to cover them as well. Mark Peter circles back to this being not only about agriculture but also tourism and activity because they will average three additional events throughout the year aside from the fair. This is a really good place to park this money in Mr. Peter's opinion. Bell Wether has approved it it has already been vetted. Mark Peter makes a motion to pay the loss of revenue from 2020 out of the current ARPA payment and commit \$207,200 from the second ARPA payment. The motion is seconded by Bret Austin. Committee carries.

Mark Peter asks if this will be presented to the entire board and Mr. Snider states it will, but Bret will be presenting it. Ryan Niekamp asked Bret to get a resolution number for it. Bret says he will get resolution numbers for this and the probation worker program as well.

Ryan Niekamp asks if the committee has seen anything from Bell Wether on the election equipment because if it's not eligible with the ARPA fund it is eligible through lost revenue. The reason for bringing it up at this time is because if the board were to entertain that expense it would need to be decided on soon with the election season coming up there would need to be lead time, time to train on how to operate the new equipment, documentation would need to be done all before June, and deployment to all the precinct's polling places in the county. Kent Snider asked what kind of numbers they'd be looking at for in that proposal. Bret Austin responded that he was given a request for it in the beginning and Niekamp agreed it was one of the original requests. Kent Snider states that the cost proposal for this was \$258,000. Bret Austin says that would cover 45 tabulators as a complete replacement. Mr. Niekamp states those numbers are correct that 34 would be deployed and the rest would be extra as inevitably 3-4 go down every election. Kent Snider asks if there's still a sample in the County Clerk's office. Ryan Niekamp states that there is a touch screen voting system in his office, but the tabulators are a separate thing and he has these in the clerk office now as well. Bret Austin states that this was a non-approved request for Bell Wether and it kind of got pushed to the side for other projects. Mr. Austin goes on to say that there are a few departments that have lost revenue requests in to put back into the general fund he just doesn't know what the method is to do that switch. They need to see the consultant again on how to switch it over to the lost revenue in the general fund. Mr. Snider said this is not something they would want to do until after the new fiscal year, so it doesn't interfere with the current budget. Mr. Niekamp says that he's conversated with Jana from the treasurer's office and they are going to have the generalized ARPA account and each individual project underneath it so it can be tracked better, and the question is if there could maybe be sub accounts created for the lost revenue as well. Bret Austin says that by doing it that way it can be looked at as a whole or project by project. Kent Snider and Bret Austin both state this is probably better suited to be discussed in mid-December. The non-approved projects are being stockpiled because Mr. Austin would like to get through the budgeting first. Ryan Niekamp says that would be cutting it close, but he'd be able to get it to work. It took about a month to receive the last ones ordered. Kent Snider agrees to address it in the December or January meeting.

Rich Wagner is really trying to get Marketplace City to vet the MDC but it's been a slow process. It's been over 3 months and they still haven't put it out for a bid. Bret Austin asks how the internal Adams County IT has done in getting quotes for them and Rich says they've done great and have given him quotes already. It's just taking time getting things going with Marketplace City. Mr. Austin states that their process of planning what is needed is good but the execution of it is lacking which is not optimal. It's not worth the trouble if they can't make the virtual thought process become a reality. Mr. Wagner states they have three projects currently with Marketplace City and they are moving very slowly. Mr. Austin states he will bring that up when he speaks with his contact there.

Bret Austin also wants to bring up Mill Creek water. This was presented to Mr. Austin about three months ago they are asking for land purchase (not qualified), 54th street water main improvement (is qualified), and a 300,000-gallon water tower and water main project (which the county would not be able to afford to support themselves even though it does qualify). It might require some type of user fee thing to be worked into it. Bret Austin goes on to state that he promised he'd bring it up again. They do service 2,300 customers and the population served is around 6,000 people that all belong to Adams County. It is a necessity and a large water system so this would be a big deal in the county. It's not without merit but the ask is a little high, but that's not to downplay the necessity of the water supply. Land purchase is not going to happen it's an absolute no because it gets

into too many things. The 54th Street water main improvement would need to show some basis of need that could be age, inadequacy of material used, etc. The water tower, if going by cost, is probably not going to be approved and if you read the ARPA language it's not about just improvements to the infrastructure, but to make the structures Covid-safe. This wasn't sent to Bell Wether yet because it was out of the blue and there were more things in front of it, but Mr. Austin states he will now over the next couple weeks, so no one gets the idea they are just being dismissed without cause. Mill Creek won't show a business plan on how they will raise their rates for their customers. If they raise it enough to cover the costs while still receiving the ARPA funding that could also be a concern.

Bret Austin also has notes on his meeting with the 377 board, but it isn't necessarily part of the ARPA funding but it's more about whether it will be approved by the finance committee or not. The rental inspection program is going up for a vote at city council tonight, but that is just part of the housing renovation programs and the land bank. Land Bank meeting is set up all the officers are elected. Mr. Austin was named as chairman of the board Jeff Bergman is the vice chairman and they are actively recruiting counties and cities. All the counties involved have their own escrow account, so Adams County money remains in Adams County. Bank accounts have been set up they also have a liability insurance to cover the board as there is bound to be some sticky situations. At the first meeting they received a couple properties in Quincy that were donated. One will be cleaned up, leveled, and sold as a lot. The other has some value and is an inherited property. The Land Bank board is currently learning the flow of how these things will go on how to get in front of the trustee tax sale. Mr. Austin thinks that the board is making good progress and Land Bank will be having confidential discussions about the properties so all that will be known is that Land Bank has acquired some property.

Executive Session

None

Dave Bellis motions to adjourn the meeting and Bret Austin seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

END OF MINUTES