

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Special Meeting**

**ARPA Funds Public Input
Wednesday, February 2, 2022**

6:00 pm

**Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333**

MINUTES

**MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees –
Special Meeting
February 2, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Roll Call: Deb Mousseau, Dave VanHouten, Larry Knowles, Rob Heethuis, Mike Cunningham
(All Present)

Staff Present: Frank Fiala, Sandy Marcukaitis, John Frigmanski

Visitors: 5

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles that the public comment part under ARPA be 10 minutes each rather than 3. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO AMEND
THE AGENDA**

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes for anything not pertaining to ARPA)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Purpose of the Meeting

- The purpose of this meeting is to provide township residents with some information about the ARPA funds the township is receiving and the opportunity to provide suggestions and comments on how the funds should be spent.

ARPA Funds Introduction by Clerk Mike Cunningham

- ARPA stands for American Rescue Plan Act, also known as Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.
- In May 2021, Treasury published the Interim final rule (IFR) describing eligible and ineligible uses of funds. The IFR went immediately into effect in May.
- Interim eligible uses are below:
 - Replacing lost public sector revenue

**ARPA FUNDS
INTRODUCTION**

- Public health and economic impacts
- Premium pay
- Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure
- Some of these allowable uses don't apply to small townships (such as hospitals)
- Yankee Springs Township funds need to be obligated (or designated) by the end of 2024 and expended (used) by the end of 2026.
- The township has received a lot of communication through MTA, Michigan Treasury and other sources.
- The final rule has been made and it significantly broadens the way the ARPA funds can be used by Townships.
 - It basically states that if a township receives ARPA funds under \$10 million, you can use the money in any way that the township can legally spend money.
- Yankee Springs Township's ARPA funds total \$466,508.
 - The first half of the funds (\$233,254) arrived 9/23/2021. The second half will arrive no sooner than 9/23/2022.
 - We have recently received an additional \$939 which is the Township's share of ARPA funds that were not accepted by a few townships.
 - The US Treasury rules contain language that indicates that ARPA funds CAN be given to individuals and businesses.
 - A recent MTA ARPA Funds Update webinar stated that it is NOT legal under Michigan law for Townships to give money to individuals or businesses.
 - Now that the final rules are known, the Township will begin to allocate and spend ARPA funds. We want to seek input from township residents to ensure that we are aware of all possible uses of ARPA funds.
- The Township has a letter from Wayland Area EMS (received July 26, 2021), requesting the township's consideration of allocating WAEMS a portion of its ARPA funds.
- At the 8/12/2021 Board meeting, GLASWA made a request for \$50,000. Martin and Orangeville Townships have already designated \$50,000 of ARPA funds to GLASWA.
- The Township, GLASWA, and YES Communities (owners of Yankee Springs Meadows Trailer Park) are currently discussing the possible capacity expansion of the township's water system to support connection of the Trailer Park. The township's \$15,000 contribution to an engineering study is at least temporarily funded with ARPA funds. Various grants and other funding are a part of the study.
- The township does have a non-prioritized list of possible uses for ARPA funds (copy attached).
 - The park has requested to match possible grant funds for the expansion of their parking lot.
- Letters of Township support:
 - A letter was sent in support of a Barry County Broadband grant application on 7/26/2021.
 - The Barry County Road Commission asked for a letter supporting their request for ARPA funds in September 2021. This letter was sent 09/14/2021.
 - The Township has also received a letter from a resident asking that funds be used to support broadband.
- Input to the Township can be made by contacting the Township through letters, emails, calls, or in person (not just at the public meetings).

PUBLIC COMMENT regarding ARPA funds:

Sandy Marcukaitis (Park Chairperson for the Township): Sandy presented a letter to the board

**PUBLIC COMMENT
REGARDING ARPA
FUNDS**

on behalf of the Park Committee asking to receive ARPA funds to help with the park expansion (attached). They have applied for a grant so if they get it the ARPA funds would be matching. If the grant is not received, they have no funds for the park expansion and parking lot. The expansion would double the size of the parking lot.

Catherine Getty: Regarding the work that the Park committee is doing: If the current 5-year Rec plan is not accepted for the DNR grant funding, they would look at an update of the rec plan to enable applying for grants. Part of the update would be reaching out to the residents and businesses in YS to see what is important to them. It would be a way to get feedback from the residents. In her opinion Yankee Springs has missed the window for receiving a DNR grant in 2022. She is asking that the Township put a pie together and then designate a piece/percentage to the Parks committee and other prioritized items. Also discussed was whether any ARPA funds are allocated to the Commission on Aging – at this point she is not aware of that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

None.

BOARD COMMENT

Board comment:

Cunningham: This is one of at least 3 or 4 public meetings. We'll talk about the next one at our Board meeting. This is not the only opportunity.

Knowles: We're not in a hurry and need to make sure next meeting includes snowbirds.

VanHouten: If we have ideas, can we send them to Mike to add to the list?

Mousseau: There's no hurry, we could include the snowbirds – maybe advertise the next meeting a little differently by adding social media.

Heethuis: Fleis & Vandenbrink did send our letter by the end of January to see what's out there and was very optimistic about funds from EGLE dealing with water and water issues. That is on the way. He will be contacting YES to discuss.

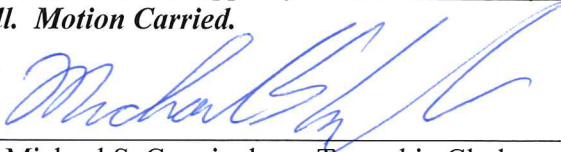
ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to adjourn meeting at 6:30 PM.

Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:


Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Date:

3/14/2022

Respectfully submitted by:

Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
February 8, 2022