

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

**ARPA Funds Public Input
Wednesday, May 18, 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
May 18, 2022**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Roll Call: Mike Cunningham, Dave VanHouten, Deb Mousseau, Rob Heethuis.

Absent with notice: Larry Knowles

Staff Present: Dennis Buist

Visitors: 5

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion to amend the agenda by Heethuis with support from Cunningham so that the first public comment is for anyone that has anything to address that has nothing to do with ARPA and will be for three minutes. The second chance will be for anything regarding ARPA and will be 10 minutes each. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes.

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

None

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 of 2021.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

**MOTION TO AMEND
THE AGENDA**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**ARPA FUNDS
INTRODUCTION**

- Interim eligible uses are below:
 - Replacing lost public sector revenue
 - 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 (spent) by the end of 2026.
- Mike Cunningham and Deb Mousseau have sat in on a number of training sessions and webinars to learn about the ARPA rules.
- 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 \$468,386.
 - 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 \$938.87 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. Some states have laws that allow this (not Michigan).
 - 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. The most recent guidance is to obtain legal guidance.
 - 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.
- All of the funds will be reflected as revenue in the budgeting process.
- The current list of possible projects to be funded by ARPA funds totals \$1,128,500 (approximately 2.5 times the amount of the township's ARPA funds).
- The Township has received requests for ARPA funds:
 - A letter from Wayland Area EMS (received July 26, 2021), requesting the township's consideration of allocating WAEMS a portion of its ARPA funds.
 - The Township designated \$18,000 of ARPA money for a study regarding expanding our water service so that we could serve the residents of Yankee Springs Meadows Trailer Park. That may not happen specifically for the Trailer Park, but we will still have the study for future expansion.
- 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.
- Attached letters and requests from residents were shared:
 - Providing broadband internet throughout the township
 - Dog park
 - Additional tornado/weather sirens
 - Install a fence around Robbins cemetery
 - Plant arborvitaes along the south fence line of Robbins Cemetery to hide the subdivision to the south.
 - Install new cemetery signs for all cemeteries
 - Hire In-house Zoning administrator

- Update the subdivision ordinance
 - Investigate the low water levels on Cobb Lake
 - Provide matching grant money to the Parks Committee
 - Evaluate drainage issues related to Payne Lake
 - Watershed management in the County as well as the Township
- Residents are encouraged to communicate their thoughts and opinions on this or any other matter to the Township by visiting the office, by letter, phone call, or email.

PUBLIC COMMENT regarding ARPA funds:

Mark DeRosia (Cobb Lake resident): advocating for water issues – what to look for when the water level is low in the lake. Would like to see the township use some funds to bring some expert assistance in to see what can be done. He has reached out to a local person with EGLE but has not gotten a response from them yet.

Kim Lozano (Oakwood Shores Blvd): agrees with Mark’s comments. The lake levels (on Cobb Lake) are low and they need to get to the bottom of why that is happening. Would like to see the Township research and find a solution to this problem. According to long term residents, in the past it has never varied more than two inches but has been at least a foot for the last two years.

Michael Ogle (Cobb Lake resident): Does the water testing for the state on the Lake. It would be very helpful for the Township to talk to EGLE rather than the citizens as EGLE gets many calls and may not be taking it seriously. Something has affected the lake because one of the springs that feeds the lake froze over this past weather which hasn’t happened in previous years. Some people think it’s related to the sand pits as they are digging deeper down which may or may not be part of it, but they need to have experts come in to evaluate that. He inquired whether the township issues permits for gravel and sand mining and Cunningham responded that at this time permits are issued from the Township and the Township does have a gravel mining ordinance in place. He expressed concern about excavating being done on Patterson Road at Bowen’s Mill Road. The Board directed him to talk to the Code Enforcement Officer, Brad Williams, about the matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

None.

Board comment:

Cunningham: The budget coming up will make it a busy month.

Mousseau: Thanked residents for coming out and agreed it will be busy with budget meetings.

VanHouten: Glad you came out. Wasn’t aware of the problem so it’s good to hear about it.

Heethuis: Agreed that it’s good to have the residents come in and add this information.

ADJOURNMENT:

**PUBLIC COMMENT
REGARDING ARPA
FUNDS**

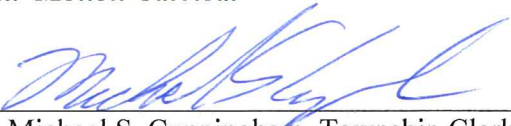
PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT

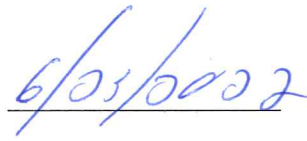
Motion by Cunningham, with support from Mousseau to adjourn meeting at 6:42 PM.

Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:


Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Date:



Respectfully submitted by:

Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary

May 20, 2022

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ADJOURNMENT