

**JOINT SESSION**  
**COUNCIL & COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Jefferson County Public Safety Center, 620 Green Road, Madison, IN 47250

DATE 06-15-2022

Commissioner Ron Lee called the meeting to order along with Commissioner Robert Little and Commissioner Bramer. Those present: Council President Ray Denning, Councilwoman Judy Smith, Councilwoman Pam Crozier, Councilwoman Heather Foy, Councilman Chris Shelton, Councilman Gary Copeland, and Councilman Ray Black. The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the American Rescue Plan draft plan.

**Negative Economic Impact/Fire House Discussion-** At the May 10<sup>th</sup> joint session, the Council was in favor of advertising the amounts for Neavill's Grove, Chelsea Jubilee, Canaan Fall Festival, Habitat for Humanity and an amount set aside for other non-profits. At today's Council meeting, the Council approved these amounts to be appropriated. At the joint session, the Council did table all the amounts for the firehouses. Councilman Ray Black gathered data from each of the firehouses regarding call volume, fundraising amounts and budget from 2019, 2020, and 2021. Based upon Black's findings he presented his suggested amounts:

Madison Township	\$175,000
Ryker's Ridge	\$160,000
Deputy	\$150,000
Hanover	\$140,000
Dupont	\$130,000
Canaan	\$120,000
Kent	\$110,000
Milton	\$100,000
City Fire Houses(6)	\$25,000 each
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,285,000</b>

Councilman Chris Shelton also suggested amounts, basing his figures on each fire house receiving a \$100,000 base donation and \$150,000 split amongst the 8 fire houses according to the average of call volume over the past 3 years. The amounts presented are:

Madison Township	\$158,493.**
Ryker's Ridge	\$111,531.**
Deputy	\$104,370.**
Hanover	\$127,340.**
Dupont	\$118,598.**
Canaan	\$117,017.**
Kent	\$108,834.**
Milton	\$103,812.**
City Fire Houses(6)	\$25,000 each
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>

Discussion followed amongst the Council regarding the amounts presented and their thoughts on call volume. Robert Black, Madison Township Fire Chief, was in attendance to explain his departments call volume and the general operations of the fire department. The cost of equipment and fire rescue vehicles has drastically increased over the years. The Commissioners would like the amounts to be split evenly amongst the fire departments, which would be

\$118,750, distributed to each. Councilwoman Heather Foy made a motion to advertise the amounts presented by Councilman Shelton. Councilman Ray Black seconded the motion. Motion passed 7/0.

**Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure-** The Council was in favor of advertising the amounts that were presented at the previous meeting, which was a total of \$2,320,000 towards water, sewer and broadband. The original draft plan listed an amount of \$2,400,000, but was later decreased to the \$2,320,000 due to calculating the actual number of Jefferson County water users. Councilwoman Pam Crozier requested that the \$2,400,000 be reconsidered and appropriate the left over \$80,000 to the rural water companies. The commissioners will take this under advisement and Auditor, Heather Huff will provide a report at the next Council meeting with the amounts that have been appropriated or spent with the ARPA funds.

**Revenue Replacement-** During the May joint session, the Council voted to advertise all revenue replacement categories, with the exception of the \$500,000 set aside for the JPG Airport Planning Study. Commissioner Bramer has had discussions with the Regional Development Authority (RDA) and he believes the RDA will provide \$250,000 towards the planning study. Councilwoman Pam Crozier attended a meeting held by the Madison Municipal Airport, which presented a powerpoint presentation and a 2004 study of the JPG lands. Councilwoman Crozier discussed her concerns with the viability of the airport runway and property. The commissioners were unaware of the meeting and requested the information from Crozier. Commissioner Bramer explained that the planning study is not only for the airport, but it is to find out if there are any other options on the property, including the use of the railroads or roads. Councilman Ray Denning agreed and stated he would like to see if JPG can be used for anything. Councilman Gary Copeland voiced his opinion on the study, calling it a "gamble". Councilman Copeland also said he believed that \$500,000 could be better used elsewhere, like the Highway Department or to chip and seal roads or other economic development. Councilwoman Heather Foy made mention that the \$500,000 set aside for the planning study was just an amount given and not the exact amount that the study would cost. Commissioner Bramer stated that the planning firm is continuing to work on a number for a quote for the study, which he will present to the RDA to request the \$250,000. Essentially, the study will cost the county less than the \$500,000 that was presented in the draft. Councilwoman Heather Foy would like the final cost of the study before a decision is made on the study and suggested the line, which states JPG Airport Planning Study, be simply put as Economic Development. Councilman Chris Shelton requested circuit breakers be put on certain areas of the study. Councilman Chris Shelton made a motion to advertise the \$500,000 for Economic Development. Councilwoman Judy Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/1, with Councilman Gary Copeland voting against and Councilman Ray Black not voting.

Commissioner David Bramer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Robert Little seconded. Motion passed 3/0.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Huff, Auditor                      Ron Lee, Commissioner President

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David Bramer, Commissioner              Robert Little, Commissioner

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Ray Denning, Council President              Judy Smith, Council

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Pam Crozier, Council                      Heather Foy, Council

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Chris Shelton, Council                      Gary Copeland, Council

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Ray Black, Council