

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ARPA ADVISORY

DATE: MARCH 29, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

CLAUDIA BRAYMER (CO-CHAIR)
DENNIS DICKINSON (CO-CHAIR)
RACHEL SEEBER
WAYNE LAMOTHE
RAY AGNEW
BETH GILLES
FRANK THOMAS
DOUGLAS BEATY
MICHAEL WILD
RYAN MOORE
MICHAEL SWAN
ETHAN GADDY

OTHERS PRESENT:

LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
SUPERVISORS HOGAN
LEGGETT (VIA ZOOM)
MAGOWAN
MCDEVITT (VIA ZOOM)
MERLINO
STEPHEN MATTE, WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
DOUG MILLER, ADIRONDACK SPORTS COMPLEX
LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
LYNN SICKLES, SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK CHILD CARE NETWORK
KIM SOPCZYK, FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

MICHAEL BITTEL

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the March 29, 2022 meeting of the ARPA Advisory Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

Note: Pursuant to New York State Legislation (S.50001/A.40001): “Notwithstanding the provisions of article 7 of the public officers law to the contrary, any state agency, department, corporation, office, authority, board, or commission, as well as any local public body, or public corporation as defined in section 66 of the general construction law, or political subdivisions as defined in section 100 of the general municipal law, or a committee or subcommittee or other similar body of such entity, shall be authorized to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.” All Committee Members in attendance were physically present.

Ms. Braymer called the meeting of the ARPA Advisory Committee to order at 3:00 p.m.

The ARPA Advisory Committee agenda was distributed to those present; those participating remotely accessed the agenda via the Warren County website. *A copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Braymer offered privilege of the floor to the public. Stephen Matte, *Warren County Resident*, spoke concerning the housing market, suggesting 5% of the ARPA funds be used to build starter homes under 1,000 square feet consisting of two bedrooms and one bath for couples/families with income limitations, as well as seniors who could not afford to go into senior housing.

Messrs. Dickinson and Wild entered the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Commencing the agenda review with Item 1A, Ethan Gaddy, *Assistant County Planner*, apprised Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, had been updating the County website with draft materials and meeting minutes. He said Mr. Lehman had been able to cross promote the information through social media and was able to track how many

views the content had. He requested Mr. Lehman update social media with the accomplishments from each meeting, as well as what the full Board decided to do with the recommendations.

Ms. Braymer requested Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, provide input on Item 2A. Mr. LaMothe explained on pages 3 - 5 of the agenda consisted of items in black that were items that had already been discussed and were set aside, the items in red were added at the last meeting and the green items were from the online solicitation process. He reminded the Committee ARPA funding could not be used for debt service items could not be used by the ARPA funds which would exclude the Lake George Village sewer system. He appraised \$10,726,364 had not been committed, the total amount of funds requested was \$35,000,000 and if \$20,000,000 for the Village of Lake George sewer system upgrade was subtracted that still left \$10,000,000.

Ms. Braymer requested Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, update the Committee with details for the Meals on Wheels program. Mr. Moore indicated he spoke to Deanna Park, *Director, Office for the Aging*, on costs to fill in the gaps of volunteers for the program to be able to provide five days a week service. He said most routes were an hour to an hour and a half long and they assumed a rate of \$15 for the hour route and \$22.50 for the hour and a half route. He stated there were 12 Warren County routes lacking volunteers and 1 route that Hamilton County was lacking volunteers. He indicated if they were to pay delivery workers for the lacking routes they estimated it would cost \$47,000 - \$70,000 annually in Warren County and \$3,900 - \$5,900 annually for the Hamilton County routes. Subsequently he said that raised the question whether the Counties could sustain a volunteer model or move into paid models. He expounded stating if they transitioned to fully paid meal delivery he calculated the 32 total routes in both counties 5 days a week for 52 weeks would cost \$125,000 - \$179,000 a year. He said if they separated the Counties it would be \$23,400 - \$35,000 for Hamilton County. He indicated the Counties would need to be prepared to pick up the costs once the ARPA funds ran out. Mr. Moore appraised the amounts he provided did not reflect mileage costs which he would need to calculate. He noted they had increased their efforts to obtain volunteers and had received interest, but were awaiting information that needed to be submitted to Office for the Aging. Mr. LaMothe stated Ms. Park needed to fill out the application for the meal program and determine how it would meet the ARPA requirements in order for the Treasurer and Planning Departments to report to the US Treasury how the funds were dispensed.

Moving on to Item 3, Mr. Gaddy reviewed A. through D. in detail. He appraised he contacted Saratoga County and Ulster County to obtain information how they handled their application process and he had included examples of their applications in the agenda. A lengthy discussion ensued which included a maximum funding amount on the application, revising the application to include deadlines and detailed questions, along with a collaboration of applicants with similar proposals.

Regarding Item 4A, Ms. Braymer extended privilege of the floor Liza Ochsendorf, *Director, Employment & Training*, who introduced Lynn Sickles, *Executive Director, Southern Adirondack Child Care Network*, who had submitted an online request for funding which was included in the agenda on page 17. Ms. Sickles explained there was a child care provider and program shortage in the County, State and Country. She appraised the decline in child care openings started prior to the pandemic and the pandemic exacerbated the shortage. She indicated the child care slot shortage had a negative impact on the workforce and some parents were not able to afford child care, while others could not find child care resulting in them quitting their jobs to care for their children which had an impact on the workforce. Ms. Sickles presented a proposal for 15 new family-based child care providers with a potential 120 - 240 slots in Warren County in the amount of \$112,500. The Committee members posed questions which Ms. Sickles answered.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (Mr. Bittel absent) to authorize the distribution of ARPA funding in the amount of \$112,500 over a two year period to

Southern Adirondack Child Care Network to recruit 15 new family-based child care providers and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 14th Board meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Doug Miller, *Adirondack Sports Complex*, who explained his business was unique and did not qualify for the various grant programs he had tried to apply for in an effort to recoup lost revenue as a result of being shut down for 12 months due to COVID-19. He said he had recently learned the ARPA funds may be available for small businesses and said he submitted an online solicitation form for \$200,000 in an effort to make current with his lender. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Mr. Beaty and seconded by Mr. Dickinson to approve funding in the amount of \$200,000 to help make Mr. Miller's loan current due to lost revenue during the pandemic shut down. Discussion ensued during which it was noted a process still needed to be developed to award funding to private businesses prior to allocating funding to Mr. Miller.

Messrs. Dickinson and Beaty withdrew their motions and it was noted the discussion would continue at the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the ARPA Advisory Committee, motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (Mr. Bittel absent), Ms. Braymer adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board