

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2021

Committee Chair Tim Shafer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse.

Present: Shafer, Slagel, Fannin (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Kirkton, Lovell

Absent: Bunting, Earing

Also Present: County Board Member Seth Welch, Finance Director Diane Schwahn, and Executive Director Alina Hartley, Paul Johnson Dwight Fire Protection District Chief & Dwight Mayor, Kevin McNamara Village of Dwight Administrator, Dwight Trustee Randy Irvin, Pontiac 90 Superintendent John Kilgore, and Pontiac 429 Superintendent Brian Dukes.

Shafer called for any additions or corrections to the revised agenda with none requested. *Motion by Slagel; second by Kirkton to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.*

Review of American Rescue Plan Proposals – Paul Johnson was present to review a request from the Village of Dwight for the remounting of two ambulances at a cost of \$290,000. Johnson reviewed the current fleet with the committee as well as the increase service area resulting from the closure of Duffy’s. Johnson reported that once Duffy’s closed, they began picking up two-thirds of Livingston County. Johnson also discussed the increased workload due to the pandemic and their response.

Johnson also reviewed the request for reimbursement of salaries related to the Dwight Fire Protection District. Johnson reviewed the increase in workload resulting from the pandemic and the need for additional training, interoperability and recruitment. Johnson noted that he hopes the salary reimbursement will be able to allow the district to supplement wages and get the wages up.

John Kilgore and Brian Dukes were present to review their request for wireless communications project. Kilgore noted that there are definitely some areas in the county that struggle with meeting the requirements, but the districts were hoping to bring access to those children who do not currently have access. It was noted that the upgrades would provide a private network only for the students, and not for the parents. It was noted that the providing even partial funds, along with their allocations would build a strong foundation, but the system would not be as expansive. Discussion took place regarding how the districts intended to utilize their allocated funds which included HVAC upgrades for fresh air return, outdoor learning spaces, etc.. Dukes noted that the maximum request for both projects was \$1.5 million, and the minimum needed would be \$1 million.

Hartley then reported that the County does have some expenses related to COVID that she is requesting authorization to be paid from the grant funds. Hartley requested a total of \$100,000 for Livingston County COVID related expenses. *Motion by Fannin, second by Lovell to approve the \$100,000 COVID related expenses for the County.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Motion by Kirkton, second by Lovell to approve the remounting of two ambulances for the Village of Dwight. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

The Committee began to review the remaining projects. *Motion by Kirkton, second by Slagel to deny the request for reimbursement of fundraising efforts for the Salvation Army.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Consensus of the Committee was to approve the requests for Workforce training (EMT Training and PAES Training), and the COVID related salary expenses for Vermilion Valley and further to request the following individuals attend the next meeting to review their request: The Boys & Girls Club, IHR, Public Health & County Clerk.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Motion by Lovell, second by Kirkton to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m..

Alina Hartley
Executive Director