

1. Call to Order: Chairman Baner

2. Invocation: Commissioner Henderson

3. Pledge of Allegiance: led by Commissioner Mason

4. Adoption of the Agenda: Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve adoption of the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

5. Citizens Comments: None

6. Reports from Chairman Baner:

Ms. Jennifer Phillips of Willing Helpers Clinic

The goal of Willing Helpers Clinic staff is to provide quality healthcare to patients who have no insurance and are unable to pay for medical services. The clinic is the only free healthcare source in Newton County. They are requesting urgent funding on behalf of the underprivileged to stay in operation.

Ms. Jennifer Hibbard, CEO of View Point Health

View Point Health is a community behavioral health center providing services to individuals who need treatment and support to cope with mental illness, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. View Point Health serves uninsured, underinsured, low-income Medicaid, Medicare, war veterans and some private insurance across multiple locations with a full continuum of behavioral health services and supports. They are requesting funding for construction cost for renovations of the Detox Unit.

Ms. Felicia Hodges, FCCLA Adviser Liberty Middle School

Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a nonprofit leadership organization for students in Family and Consumer Science Education in public and private school through 12th grade. They are petitioning funding support of \$9,000.00 to attend the FCCLA National Leadership Conference June 29-July 03, in San Diego, CA.

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as listed, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

9a) Approval of the Minutes: 04/19/2022-Budget Workshop 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

7:30 Zonings and Public Hearings

Presenter - Shena Applewhaite, Interim Director of Development Services

1) Approval of the Adoption of FY21 CIE-STWP Resolution and Addendum R050322

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve Adoption of FY21 CIE-STWP

Resolution and Addendum R050322, seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Passed Vote 4-1.

*Commissioner Henderson was not seated when vote was taken.

2) Approval of the Adoption of Resolution R050322A

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FURTHER EXTENDING UNTIL JULY 19, 2022, AN EXISTING MORATORIUM ON THE
ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS OF ZONING PETITIONS AND PRELIMINARY
PLAT/CONCEPT PLAN PETITIONS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve Adoption of Resolution R050322A, seconded by Commissioner Sanders. Passed. Vote 4-1. Commissioner Cowan opposed.

Reports from ICM Jarvis Sims:

Jarvis announced the Departmental Highlights for the month of April in addition to a PowerPoint presentation being displayed.

This week is Public Safety Appreciation Week

Chairman Banes opened the floor to Ms. Jennifer Phillips of Willing Helpers Clinic to further discuss her request asking the board to approve emergency funding of \$750,000.00 of ARPA funds. This amount would help the clinic stay in operation through 2024.

Commissioner Cowan asked if the agenda could be amended to add and hear the requests for ARPA funding as action items.

Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter said yes that agenda could be amended.

Commissioner Cowan made a motion to amend the agenda to add the previous request of Willing Helpers for ARPA funding as an action items, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Sanders stated the ARPA subcommittee currently does not have a policy in place to distribute funds to nonprofits and small businesses in order for them to be distributed fairly. The current ten million dollars of ARPA funds have been allocated and categorized and will be distributed accordingly. The committee has gotten with Interim County Manager to make sure that there is a consultant on board so the legislatures are not part of the decision process and that we have a policy in place. In order to be fair we have to have a policy in place to make sure that we are following the guidelines of the Department of Treasury.

Commissioner Henderson stated that he committed \$200,000 dollars to View Point after visiting the facility and he saw the need in addition to other assessing other areas and needs for distributing the ARPA funds that have been allocated to his district.

Patrick said that his only hesitation on the board voting tonight is he doesn't know all the details that he would like to know about the potential grant to Willing Helpers in order that I can tell you yes, this is an authorized ARPA expenditure. Adding that he knows nothing about Willing Helpers, what he heard from them today is the extent of what he knows. Nonprofit assistance is one of the authorized purposes for ARPA expenditures. This is a grant that may require us to identify an adversely impacted community, whether it was impacted greater than the rest of the community.

Patrick stated that I can't actually state every requirement that they might be expected to meet, my expectation is that I could be able to confirm, and stated he could not give assurance that this would be an authorized lawful expenditure right now. That would be the one hesitation about this particular grant. He said that he could possibly give an answer in a day or two.

Commissioner Henderson made a substitute motion to table this matter to give the attorney the opportunity to provide legal opinion on how the ARPA funds should be dispersed legally, and stated if the board approves to table this motion, during this time for the board to consider the projects that he asked to be paid for by my ARPA funds allotted for District 4, Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Mason asked Patrick how quickly would we be able to solidify the legality of providing the funds to the organization as well as how quickly can we get a policy in place to ensure that going forward if we're presented with type of request again, that we have that policy in place?

Commissioner Mason then thanked Ms. Phillips for her presentation and the great work that she is doing in the community to help the uninsured individuals, and asked if she had sought out funding from any other agencies or organizations, if so, have they confirmed if they would be able to assist you a lot faster than we would be able to assist you.

Ms. Phillips stated she has kept the clinic afloat the past 2 ½ years with significant funding using the resources we already had and through grant writing. Our costs have skyrocketed due to the need of care.

Commissioner Mason asked Ms. Phillips if she had reached out to any other organizations or agencies during this critical period to which she is requesting the ARPA funds to see if they were able to assist rather quickly than this board could and if so, did they confirm that they were able to?

Ms. Phillips said that she had reached out extensively and no one is able to help now in the time frame that we need to continue to serve people at capacity.

Patrick stated in response to answer Commissioner Mason's questions, with Ms. Phillips help, I can answer that question to tomorrow as to whether this request is an authorized under ARPA. My expectation is that it is. And as to a policy, I could have a policy that I would recommend tomorrow as well, and stated that he's not sure if his policy recommendation would satisfy the board.

Patrick said that he would need additional information and documentation from Ms. Phillips and he can give a response.

Patrick stated that in regards to items that Commissioner Henderson was asking about, he has already distributed a response to the committee about that.

Commissioner Edwards asked Ms. Phillips the expected timeline to continue operation of the clinic with the current funds.

Ms. Phillips said next Thursday.

Commissioner Edwards stated that he would like to make a substitute to for the board to approve the request authorizing the finance department to issue payment to distribute ARPA funding to Willing Helpers Clinic as soon as possible pending legal approval, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

Willing Helpers Clinic \$672,900.00 pending legal approval.

Commissioner Edwards \$200,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 1

Commissioner Mason \$150,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 2

Commissioner Sanders \$150,000 from allocated ARPA funds for District 3

Commissioner Henderson \$22,900 from allocated ARPA funds for District 4

Commissioner Cowan \$150,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 5

Chairman Banes opened the floor to Ms. Jennifer Hibbard, CEO of View Point Health to present her request for the board to approve \$200,000.00 of ARPA funds for renovations of the Detox Unit of the facility.

Commissioner Henderson stated that he would like to make a motion to approve the request authorizing the finance department to distribute ARPA funding to View Point Health pending legal approval, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously.

View Point Health \$400,000.00 pending legal approval

Commissioner Edwards \$50,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 1

Commissioner Mason \$50,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 2

Commissioner Sanders \$50,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 3

Commissioner Henderson \$200,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 4

Commissioner Cowan \$50,000.00 from allocated ARPA funds for District 5

Chairman Banes opened the floor to Ms. Felecia Hodges, FCCLA Adviser Liberty Middle School to present her request for ARPA funds to provide opportunity for select students to attend the FCCLA National Leadership Conference June 29-July 03 2022 in San Diego, CA. Total amount needed \$9,327,00.

Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter said that Youth Engagement is a general category for ARPA funds that would authorize this request pending legal approval.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she would like to make a motion pending legal approval, we have a category titled Youth Engagement, to grant \$9,327.00 of ARPA funds to the FCCLA program at Liberty Middle School. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason.

Chairman Banes asked if there was any discussion from the board.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Edwards asked Ms. Hodges if she had made her request for ARPA funds to the school system for support.

Ms. Hodges said the Board of Education would pay for her to attend but not students.

Chairman Banes called for the vote. The motioned carried unanimously. Vote 5-0.

Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter said he would like to recommend going forward the board direct all requests for funding from nonprofits be presented to and voted on by the ARPA committee voting members in public meetings and then presented to the board as the recommendation for approval or denial of the ARPA committee.

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to amend the agenda to add and approve as stated by the county attorney; going forward the board direct that all funding requests from nonprofits be presented to and voted on by the ARPA committee voting members in public meetings, and then presented to the board as the recommendation for approval or denial of the ARPA funds, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Henderson.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Edwards suggested that a basic application process be included for the ARPA committee to review.

Chairman Banes said that it could be added to the motion and suggested that a system be created quickly because more organizations will soon begin making requests.

ICM Jarvis Sims stated we want to be mindful that we might have more request than the availability of funding and having some processes in place will ensure that we are able satisfy the needs of the community and we are adhering to the rigid regulations of the federal government.

Chairman Banes said that he would like for the ARPA information be added and to the website and suggested that the ARPA committee meet as soon as possible.

Commissioner Sanders stated she would like to amend her motion to add there be an application process for those to submit their funding request to the ARPA sub-committee in regards to receiving federal dollars, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business: Fire Services - Approval to purchase an Aerial Fire Truck in the amount of \$1,620,907.65 Funding Source-Fire Fund/Budgeted *approved 4/19/2022

*Due to the amount of purchase, policy requires a 2nd approval of the board.

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve Fire Services request to purchase an Aerial Fire Truck in the amount of \$1,620,907.65, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously.

Agenda Items for Board Discussion and Consideration

10. Approval of Senior Services SFY 2022 VAC5 Funding Contract with Northeast Georgia Regional
Commissioner Area on Aging. Cost: \$8,137.68/Funding Source: Northeast GA Regional Commission
Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the Senior Services VAC5 Funding contract with NEGR, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.
11. Approval of the Sunbelt Builder's contract for Design phase of Probate Courtroom Renovations and Expansion. Cost: \$36,500.00/Funding Source: Capital Improvements/ Budgeted: Yes
Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve Sunbelt Builder's contract for Design phase of Probate Courtroom Renovations and Expansion, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.
12. ARPA Funds-Approval to advance the next quarterly ARPA installment to assist citizens in need.
Cost: \$175,000.00/Funding Source: ARPA Funds/ Budgeted: Yes
Commissioner Sanders made the motion of approval to advance the next quarterly installment to assist citizens in need, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

Board Discussion

Due to the rapid depletion ARPA funds quarterly installment that the board agreed on, Chairman Banes asked Patrick if the board could do anything legally to prevent this from having to become before the board in the future. Is it possible for them to distribute the next two quarters of ARPA funds?

Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter stated, if this board authorizes it, yes.

Chairman Banes suggested to the board to allocate the next two quarters due to the funds depleting rapidly.

Patrick stated that he would like to recommend that the board authorize tonight, that the immediate distribution of the next quarterly funds and authorize the Interim County Manager' staff to distribute the second next quarterly payment upon presentation of evidence that they have depleted those funds.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she would like to amend her motion as so stated by the County Attorney based on allocating the first funds, and if there need be, then the Interim County Manger' staff distribute the third allocation, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Henderson asked if they would get a list of who the funds have been distributed to, and if there is a list somewhere he would like to take a look at the list.

Patrick said that our agreement did require that they report the applicants and the recipients to us, adding that he will reach for them to expedite the list.

Chairman Banes said he would like to add, the DCA has over five hundred million dollars that they are trying to allocate to people in need as well.

Chairman called for the vote. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

13. Request for Permission letter on Newton County's behalf for Motorola Frequency Application.
Cost: N/A /Funding Source: SPLOST/ Budgeted: Yes/ Match: No
Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the request for permission letter for Motorola Frequency Application, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously.
14. Final Reading-Publix Super Markets Inc. #0744 13015 Brown Bridge Rd. Covington, GA 30016
Applicant: Jasmin Ovcina (District 2)
Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the final reading and issuance of a license, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously.

15. Citizen Comments:

Ms. Teresa Waters-Questions regarding Westside Youth Facility development process
Ms. Wendy Rodriguez-Expressed opposition of the development of the Westside Youth Facility
Dr. Tim Park-Thanked the board for their consideration and commitment to help Willing Helpers Clinic
Mr. Archie Shepherd-Thanked the board for their support to Willing Helpers Clinic
Ms. Terri James-Juneteenth support

Attorney Stephanie Lindsey-Commended the board for their commitment to assist the various organizations tonight, and commented on the pros and cons of ARPA funding

Mr. Fred Johnson-Cemetery cleanups, Observance of Memorial Day on the square, May 10-14 @ scholarship fundraiser at Legion Field

Mr. Leonard Moody-Thanked the board for their support to the organizations tonight, expressed concerns to the increase in property taxes.

Mr. Keith Ellis-Thanked the board for working together and helping the organizations, thanked the board for their service.

16.Board Comments:

Chairman Banes expressed thanks to the board for making a difference in the lives of others tonight. Juneteenth Parade on June 18th @ 8:30 a.m. at Legion Field. Congratulations to Commissioner Sanders for receiving her certification in Savannah.

Annual Chairman/Mayor Senior Services Walk May 6th @ 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Edwards thanked the board for their efforts tonight and expressed concerns regarding the 2nd phase of the ARPA funds and the requests of the elected officials and expressed the importance of prioritizing disbursement of the funds. Commented on property tax increase.

Commissioner Mason said he was very proud to be a part of the board tonight and what they did. He believes that if we continue to move forward, we will see a major enhancement of the community would be more appreciative to what the board offers, and encouraged support of the Juneteenth event. Welcomed everyone to come out on May 20th @ 7:00 p.m. Movie in the Park @ Denny Dobbs Park.

Commissioner Sanders said that this is the best meeting that she has been a part of since being on the board and thanked everyone for giving, she really believes in public service

May 7th Brunch and Learn 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

May 25th – May 26th she will be representing Newton County in Arizona at the NACo Conference

Will donate \$100,000.00 of allocated ARPA funds for District 3 to support Juneteenth.

Commented on community concerns regarding the Westside youth facility.

Commissioner Henderson commented on the homeless issues in the community and the need for shelters to be addressed. Rental moratorium, work together as a community.

Patrick Jaugstetter acknowledged and congratulated the board on how they made decisions tonight.

17. Executive Session if Needed

18. Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Banes called for a motion to adjourn. **9:15 p.m.** Commissioner Edwards motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mason.

Marcello Banes, Chairman

ATTEST:

Newton County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Historic Courthouse-1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia 30014
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Susan G. Nolley, Deputy Clerk

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