

Bear Creek Township Special Meeting November 16, 2021

- I. Time: 1:10p.m.
- II. Roll Call: Golding, Urman, Hoffman, Keiser, Radatovich
 - a. Others Present: Joel Wurster, Thad Morgan, Scott, Matt Meyerhuber
- III. Written Legal Opinion

Motion by Hoffman that the township board go into closed session to discuss with counsel written legal opinions that are subject to the attorney/client privilege, in the presence of our attorneys. 2nd by Golding

- i. Roll Call: Hoffman, Keiser, Radatovich, Golding Urman
 - 1. Yes: Hoffman, Keiser, Radatovich, Golding, Urman
 - 2. Time: 1:12

Motion by Hoffman to come out of closed session. 2nd by Golding.

- i. Roll Call: Keiser, Radatovich, Golding, Urman, Hoffman
 - 1. Yes: Keiser, Radatovich, Golding, Urman, Hoffman
 - 2. Time: 1:52

IV. ARPA Funds

Keiser noted that he would like to leverage as much of the ARPA funding as possible, by using grants and partnerships. However, in order to do that, we will need to come up with a list of what we would like to use this money for. Keiser noted that infiltration in sewer is a large issue. The infiltration is coming from sump pumps around the township that are pumping into the sewer. You can have testing done to see where this infiltration is coming from. If we can cut down our infiltration, we can extend the timing before we would have to upgrade the Harbor Springs plant.

Hoffman suggested the following ideas to be potential uses for the ARPA funding: remodeling the bathhouse at Spring Lake Park, choosing a lift station to upgrade, repairing the dock at Jones Landing, the Jones Landing boat wash, improving the path to the Bear River on Click Rd, a charging station to fill our own air packs (for the fire dept), the curbing project at the township hall, making improvements to Zoom/Hybrid meetings, increasing parking at Spring Lake Park, working with MDOT to close off the area they park at on Spring Lake Park, and purchasing more land for parking at Jones Landing.

Urman suggested the following ideas to be potential uses for the ARPA funding: sewer and water infrastructure at the new fire station, building the new fire station, upgrading the sewer lines, solving the sewer infiltration issue, a playground at the new fire hall, safety equipment for the fire dept.

- a. Keiser shared a history of the Harbor Springs plant. Bear Creek Township is renting capacity from other townships, and we make up 44% of the flow to that plant. We are hoping to prolong the timing before we have to pay to upgrade the plant (likely a \$5-6 million dollar project). Solving the infiltration issue will help extend the timing.

Radatovich cautioned the board not to use the money for something that we can get a grant for. She feels we will be able to find a grant for the recreation items. The Jones Landing boat wash was going to be paid for by the Walloon Lake Association. She suggested that we approach the trails council about making Spring Lake Park a formal trailhead for bikers. If we were to do this, perhaps we could get some funding for the maintenance of that park. She suggested the following ideas to be potential uses for the ARPA funding: building the new fire hall, assisting with the housing crisis by helping to fund the sewer extension to the upcoming Atkins Rd development, and solving the sewer infiltration issue. She noted that the revenue loss portion of the money has its own designation for how it can be used.

Keiser suggested the following ideas to be potential uses for the ARPA funding: putting in wells for the new fire hall (there would have to be two wells, a 4in and 6in), using the money for fire prevention week to buy fire extinguishers for residents, an air pack charging station, and sewer. He feels that if we were to do the extension to Atkins to help with housing, we could potentially partner with the county on that project. The cost will be for the extension plus the upgrades to the pipe (as you have to follow the pipe all the way to the plant). Keiser also suggested the following ideas for the ARPA funding: street lights at the main township intersections (a safety concern), removing the pedestrian crossing at M-119, and the Spring Lake Park bathhouse.

- a. Radatovich noted that one of the allowable uses (under the current rules) is to upgrade sanitary facilities at township halls/parks, which would include the Spring Lake Park bathhouse.
- b. Keiser will talk to the county about a partnership to upgrade the sewer extension for the housing development on Atkins Rd, as a contribution to the housing crisis in the area.
 - i. Hoffman asked if the city could annex that development. Keiser noted that it is unlikely.
- c. Urman feels the consensus of the board at this point is to use the ARPA funding for the new fire hall, or fire safety, sewer infiltration, and a sewer extension to benefit housing. Hoffman added the Spring Lake Park bathhouse. Keiser noted that a road infrastructure bill may be coming.

V. Adjournment: 2:39pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Emma Radatovich

Emma Radatovich, BCT Clerk