

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Joint Supplemental Budget Meeting

Thursday – April 28, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

The Joint Supplemental Budget Meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 5:00 P.M., via ZOOM.

Commission members present were: Dorothy G. Meriwether, Commissioner District #1, Richard L. Parent, Jr. Commissioner District #2 and Sharyn L. Pohlman, Commissioner District #3.

County staff present included: County Administrator Andrew Hart, Administrative Assistant Wendy Galvin, Sheriff Tim Carroll, Finance Director Kathy Robinson and IT Director Mike Dean.

Budget Committee members present: Chair Shawn Levasseur, Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Charles Grover Nick Lapham (*left early*) and Bob Duke.

Absent: Barry Norris, Randy Stearns, Register of Probate Elaine Hallett, Register of Deeds Madelene Cole, Jail Administrator Bob Wood, Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw, Prosecutorial Assistant/Investigator Shane Riley, District Attorney Natasha Irving, Communications Director Robert Coombs and EMA Director Ray Sisk.

Others: Knox County Homeless Coalition – Stephanie Primm, Mark Primeau and Molly Feeney.

Joint Supplemental Budget Meeting – Agenda

via ZOOM

Thursday – April 28, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

- I. I. **5:00 Meeting Called To Order** (Chair Shawn Levasseur for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Dorothy Meriwether for the Knox County Commission)
- II. **5:01 Public Comment**
- III. **5:03 Approve Minutes** (Chair Shawn Levasseur for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Dorothy Meriwether for the Knox County Commission)
 1. Minutes of Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting of April 14, 2022.
- IV. **5:05 Supplemental/Amended Budget Review**
 1. Further Review of ARPA Projects – Municipalities & Non-Profits and Knox County Departmental List.
- V. **5:45 Final Vote on all ARPA Projects (in preparation for Public Hearing)**
 1. Municipalities & Non-Profits and Knox County Departmental List.
 2. Airport CARES ACT & AIP Projects.
- VI. **Adjourn**

I. Meeting Called to Order

The April 28, 2022 Joint Supplemental Budget Meeting was called to Order by Budget Committee Chair Shawn Levasseur and Commissioner Chair Dorothy Meriwether at 5:06 P.M.

II. Public Comment:

Chair Levasseur asked if there was any Public comment.
None

III. Approve Minutes (Chair Shawn Levasseur for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Dorothy Meriwether for the Knox County Commission)

1. Minutes of the Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting of April 14, 2022.

- *Bob Duke made a motion to amend removing the last sentence on page 3 and approve the Minutes of the Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting on April 14, 2022. Charles Grover seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. (Gayle Gallant abstained)*
- *Commissioner Parent made a motion to amend removing the last sentence on page 3 and approve amended the Minutes of the Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting on April 14, 2022. Commissioner Meriwether seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. (Commissioner Pohlman abstained)*

IV. Supplemental/Amended Budget Review: Further Review of ARPA Projects- Municipalities, Non-Profits and Knox County Departmental List.

- Administrator Hart stated he sent an email out and provided what Stephanie Primm provided on behalf of the Knox County Homeless Coalition. There was a one (1) page explanation, a revised chart and follow up emails. Administrator Hart asked Stephanie if there was anything else she would like to include or who they would like to have attend this meeting. If it was agreeable with the Commission and Budget Committee would have them as participants to answer any questions that they may have. They are in the waiting room so if everyone agrees we can let them in.
- A Budget Committee member would prefer to deal with them after we have dealt with everything else. So we know how much there is. He has questions about the votes that were taken last week. These are the lines in yellow where we had split votes. He has some questions about the procedures.
- A Budget Committee member stated he thought it was important that Stephanie and her crew come in and speaks first so that they understand the dollars associated with their priorities are not necessarily the dollars they may receive.
- Stephanie Primm spoke and asked Mark to share a screen to view the two (2) revised versions of the proposal so we are all on the same page. They are happy to answer questions. In speaking with the Sheriff, the significant changes are the Reentry House has been removed and Isle au Haut has been removed (*Maine Housing has money set aside specifically for Islands*).
- A Commissioner asked Stephanie what is AMI (Adjusted Minimum Income).
- Mark Primeau stated it is the area median income. The State is looking at their ARPA funds using the lens of homeownership up to 120% of AMI (area median income), and for rental housing up to 80% of AMI. The island program needs it to work up to 120% AMI. There is a program in the works for Maine Housing that is coming out specifically for island groups that will allow projects up to 120% AMI.
- A Budget Committee member is the amount we have left to distribute is \$7,211,000.00?
- Administrator Hart stated we were awarded \$7,725,245.00 which is an exact number, we have committed \$489,500.00. That amount is the 2021 Stipends that were spent up to December 31, 2021 and this includes any legal or consultant fees. That gets us to \$7,235,745.00. We need to remember that we need to put aside an amount for further legal consultation, audit and any administrative. The Finance Director and Administrator Hart are suggesting we put aside \$500,000. If we do not need all of that what we do not use

will go to the Knox County Homeless Coalition. If you take the \$500,000.00 away from the figure he gave it would be \$6,735,745.00 that is available.

- A Budget Committee member stated that everyone agreed upon, not counting the unresolved amount for the Homeless Shelter and the four (4) items that are in yellow on the sheet was \$4,150,669.00.
- A Budget Committee member asked where we are on the Stipends.
- Chair Levasseur stated that amount does include the Stipends.
- Administrator Hart made a clarification that if you look at the Stipend amount it constantly changes because of open positions. We have separated Airport Security and Airport under CARES because that can be funded out of CARES. The grand total at the bottom is all ARPA funds.
- A Budget Committee member stated roughly we have about \$2.6 right?
- A Budget Committee member stated yes that is right.
- A Budget Committee member stated he thought the Director Coombs was going to work in the \$20,000.00 for the Consultant into his Budget for next year. He thought we had taken this out already.
- Administrator Hart stated that was discussed but prior to that the Budget Committee and Commissioners voted unanimously to support the \$20,000.00 with a 6-0 vote for Budget Committee and 2-0 vote for Commissioners.
- A Budget Committee member stated where this is final vote night we could take that out.
- A Budget Committee member stated theoretically yes we could but some of us felt that is was not the right timing. If he doesn't use the \$20,000.00 then it will roll over into the undesignated fund balance.
- A Budget Committee member stated if we focus on voting first on the split votes and resolve those can we then say deal with the other ones that were unanimously approved or do we have to go through it again item by item.
- Administrator Hart stated you could take care of the highlighted ones as they were split votes and then you would start at the top and go through each one.
- A Commissioner stated she would like the Commissioner that was absent to have the opportunity to vote on all the items.

V. Final vote on all ARPA Projects (in preparation for Public Hearing)

1. Municipalities & Non-Profits and Knox County Departmental List.
2. Airport CARES ACT & AIP Projects.

Department/Agency:

Stipends:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Stipend request for Knox County Employees in the amount of \$962,060.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Nick Lapham, Charles Grover and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Stipend request for Knox County Employees in the amount of \$962,060.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 2 (Commissioner Pohlman and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 1 (Commissioner Parent)

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

Personal Protective Equipment – Building Maintenance:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Building Maintenance request for Personal Protective Equipment in the amount of \$6,050.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Building Maintenance request for Personal Protective Equipment in the amount of \$6,050.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

Microwave – Communications:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Communications request for a Microwave in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Communications request for a Microwave in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

Scanner – Corrections:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections request for a Scanner in the amount of \$180,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections request for a Scanner in the amount of \$180,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

HVAC – Corrections:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections request for HVAC Phase 4 in the amount of \$196,400.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections request for a HVAC Phase 4 in the amount of \$196,400.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Doors – Corrections:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections request for eighty-four (84) Doors in the amount of \$840,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections request for eighty-four (84) Doors in the amount of \$840,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Digital Communications – Corrections & Sheriff:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections & Sheriff request for Digital Communications in the amount of \$34,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections & Sheriff request for Digital Communications in the amount of \$34,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

This item was approved

Tent – EMA:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the EMA request for a Tent in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the EMA request for a Tent in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

This item was approved

Audio/Video – IT:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the IT request for Audio/Video in the Commissioners Hearing Room in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)
Against: 0 ()
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the IT request for Audio/Video in the Commissioners Hearing Room in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Watercraft – Sheriff:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Sheriff’s request for a Watercraft to serve the Islands in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Sheriff’s request for a Watercraft to serve the Islands in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Private Sector

Consultant – EMS & Fire:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the EMS & Fire request for a Consultant in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the EMA & Fire request for a Consultant in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Stipend – Municipal Emergency Management Agency:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Municipal Emergency Management Agency's request for a Stipend in the amount of \$9,000.00 to provide a \$500.00 Stipend to the eighteen (18) Knox County EMA Directors the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the Municipal Emergency Management Agency's request for a Stipend in the amount of \$9,000.00 to provide a \$500.00 Stipend to the eighteen (18) Knox County EMA Directors the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Building Maintenance & Cleaning – Hagan Property Mgmt.:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Hagan Property Management's request for a Building Maintenance & Cleaning in the amount of \$29,687.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Hagan Property Management's request for a Building Maintenance & Cleaning in the amount of \$29,687.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Municipality/Non-Profit Agencies:

Food Programs – Come Spring Food Pantry:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Come Spring Food Pantry's request for a Food Programs in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the Come Spring Food Pantry's request for a Food Programs in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Affordable Housing – Isle au Haut:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Isle au Haut's request for Affordable Housing in the amount of \$175,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0

Against: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item did not pass

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the Isle au Haut's request for Affordable Housing in the amount of \$175,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 1 (Commissioner Pohlman)

Against: 2 (Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item did not pass

Affordable Housing – Knox County Homeless Coalition:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Knox County Homeless Coalition request for Affordable Housing in the amount of \$1,800,000.00 to the ARPA list.

- A Budget Committee member asked why this amount.
- A Budget Committee member stated that he would like to leave \$500,000.00 for unforeseen things. We have three (3) years to spend this money and thinks that having \$508,048.00 would be a healthy sum to leave in the kitty.
- A Budget Committee member asked if we have to go through this same process to approve the \$500,000.00.
- Administrator Hart stated that if you leave a balance you will have to do it through the Budget process or have a Special Meeting. He also mentioned with the money that we have put aside (500,000.00) for audit and legal could we include in the motion that any balance not expended from that does go to the Homeless Coalition. This way we will not have to have another meeting and that money would go to them.
- A Commissioner asked if we would have to specify that any withdrawal from that amount could escape having another meeting to approve each and every expenditure.
- Administrator Hart stated that if you agree that you want to use the \$500,000.00 for audit and other administrative costs, and we don't expend all of that then we would have to make a motion to say what you want to spend the balance on unless you want to keep it. Then we would have to have a future meeting to discuss how to spend that balance plus if you move the \$508,048.00 to an emergency account.
- A Commissioner just wants to know if the \$500,000.00 has to be approved. He just wants to have a motion to say that we will approve the sum of \$508,048.00 to be used in case of an emergency. Whatever the remainder might be would just go to the Homeless Coalition. That could be the motion without having to come together again for another meeting.
- A Budget Committee member stated he does not want in the motion that the remainder of the money set aside go to the Homeless Coalition. He would like both the Budget Committee and Commission not to make that decision at this time. We have the annual Budget process which we can allocate these monies without having to go back to these sessions.
- A Commissioner asked does this money have to be paid out in this year.
- Administrator Hart stated the money you have approved will be expended once the projects are ready to go. If we are going to set aside money that would just come back to be approved on how we will expend that in a future Budget.

- A Commissioner stated we have already designated the money to be spent and can be spent by any one of the entities in 2021. There is outstanding money just sitting there without it have been approved by the Budget Committee can it be spent without another meeting.
- Administrator Hart and a few Budget Committee members stated no.
- A Commissioner stated that a Budget Committee member suggested to set some money aside (\$508,000.00) to be spent and can be used during the Budget process in 2023. However; it cannot be used in 2022.
- A Budget Committee member stated that is his intent.
- A Budget Committee member stated that what we have approved here does not have to be spent in the next twelve (12) months. We have until 2026 to spend it. Some of these programs we have approved will not be totally ready to spend it in the next twelve (12) months. We are not breaking any rules as long as we spend it on what we said we were going to spend it on. As long as we spend those dollars we're setting aside for American Rescue Plan rules he does not see a reason for all of them to get together every four of five months to review it.
- A Commissioner stated only if a portion of the money that is to be set aside is to be spent in this year then we would have to get together.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the Knox County Homeless Coalition request for Affordable Housing in the amount of \$1,800,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Funds to be spent towards legal and auditing - \$200,000.00:

(The original amount asked for was \$500,000.00)

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee to set aside \$200,000.00 to be spent toward administrative, legal & audit costs associated with the ARPA funds. (The original amount asked for was \$500,000.00)

- Administrator Hart stated the \$500,000.00 we are asking to be set aside to be used for administrative, legal & audit and anything else that would be associated with the expenditure of ARPA things. For example, if we have to have a review of an RFP or a bid that is done by an entity that we are giving money to then that money would come out of that. At this point we don't anticipate using the whole amount as we will only expend what we need. We didn't want to make it too low of a number because then we cannot go over that number if we have costs that exceed.

- A Commissioner asked what the oversight on this \$500,000.00 is.
- Administrator Hart stated it will be approved through the Warrant process just like any other expenditure has to be. The Commissioner will have to approve that.
- A Commissioner stated that if this is the only oversight on this expenditure is the three (3) Commissioners looking at the Warrant and studying it that carefully then this is not oversight.
- A Budget Committee member stated that Finance Director Robinson said every single one of these dollar amounts has to be documented and sent to the ARPA person that actually gives out the funds. She doesn't believe it will be the Commissioners that will approve this, it has to be approved by them (ARPA) as well.
- Administrator Hart said that is part of the reporting so that is correct.
- A Commissioner stated she has full confidence in our Administrative Office and she is not questioning the integrity of the Admin. or Finance Department, but this group of people is basically saying Administration and Finance are going to have complete control over spending this \$500,000.00 and we have relinquished any control.
- A Budget Committee member stated at the end of the year we have accountants go through the books correct. If there is anything out of line they would catch it. The ARPA committee also will go this with a fine tooth comb.
- A Commissioner stated she is not saying that she thinks Finance and Administration are going to do anything unethical and she is sure they will apply these expenses to administrative and or audit costs. What she is saying is that this group has spent hours trying to determine the best use of money that has been allocated to us. So for \$500,000.00 we are basically saying it's up to Finance and Administration to spend it how they think is best. We will not have any control over that. This just goes against what we have been doing all this time.
- A Budget Committee member suggested to look at this a different way. Administrator Hart and our Finance Department need funds to pay for professional services to handle the audits and whatever other legal issues that takes place with ARPA. Administrator Hart is estimating the costs could be up to \$500,000.00. He can also see the Commissioners point. He suggests the Budget Committee to offer to approve a smaller amount to get us through this year. If we don't approve this where is the money going to come from. Administrator Hart is rightfully suggesting paying for these things from ARPA funds. Is there a more realistic number we can approve for the rest of this year opposed to \$500,000.00?
- Administrator Hart stated it is hard to say as we are talking about \$7.7 million we will have to audit etc. because we have so many requirements. This is different than the audit for the County Budget which is \$10,000.00. You are talking apples and oranges. There are many requirements we are not aware of yet and they are still piling them on. This has to be approved by a Department head if that's the way we go, then by Finance Director Robinson, Administrator Hart and Commissioners, and then on top of that we will be audited on this thing. You have to have trust in the people that are running the County.
- A Commissioner asked when do you expect this audit to happen. Can we have a smaller amount for 2022, and leave the rest of the \$500,000.00 to spend in 2023 when we will be meeting again. What is the chance that you will spend \$500,000.00 between now and December 31st on audit, legal and administrative

costs? She would be more comfortable in re-voting a Budget Committee's suggestion of putting aside a certain amount.

- Administrator Hart suggested approving \$200,000.00 to get us through the year.
- A Budget Committee member motioned to approve \$200,000.00 towards legal and audit costs through the 2022 year. He stated worst case scenario we have to meet again.
- A Commissioner asked how we are going to designate the \$300,000.00 that is being set aside. Are we leaving it undesignated?
- All agreed that is what will happen; this money will be left undesignated.

In favor: 5 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, and Shawn Levasseur)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners to set aside \$200,000.00 to be spent toward administrative, legal & audit costs associated with the ARPA funds. (The original amount asked for was \$500,000.00)

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Food Programs – MCH. Inc.:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the MCH, Inc. request for a Food Programs in the amount of \$60,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the MCH, Inc. request for a Food Programs in the amount of \$60,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Operational Support – SASSMM:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine request for Operational Support in the amount of \$160,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine request for Operational Support in the amount of \$160,000 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Knox Clinic – Town of Thomaston/Midcoast Health Net:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine request for Operational Support in the amount of \$1,200,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine request for Operational Support in the amount of \$1,200,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

Ambulance – Town of Union:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Town of Union request for Ambulance in the amount of \$275,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0

Against: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Shawn Levasseur and Nick Lapham)

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was not approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commissioners on whether to add the Town of Union request for Ambulance in the amount of \$275,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0

Against: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was not approved

- A Commissioner asked Administrator Hart what 2/3 of the Budget Committee would be.
- Administrator Hart stated it is 2/3 of the total membership of the Budget Committee not how many people you have currently. Normally there are nine (9) Budget Committee members, however; they are down one (1) so there is eight (8) right now. He verified this question with legal counsel and was told 2/3 of the Budget Committee is six (6) people.
- A Commissioner stated so all six (6) Budget Committee members have to vote unanimously in order to override the Commission in the case of a split vote.
- Administrator Hart stated that was right. If you read the Charter, this applies to the Public Hearing and the final vote for the 2/3 override. It does not apply to this vote.
- A Budget Committee member stated it does not make sense to require 2/3 of nine (9) Budget Committee members since there are only six (6) at the meeting tonight. It should be 2/3 of those in attendance.
- Administrator Hart has to disagree because the Charter is specific and it does say “of the members/membership”. He did verify this with legal.
- A Commissioner would like to change her vote on the ambulance to no.
- Administrator Hart stated we have \$2,308,548.00 left for ARPA funds
- A Budget Committee member asked is that amount with the \$500,000.00 taken out for legal right
- Administrator Hart said that number is what we have left after the \$500,000.00 and what we used in 2021.

Airport: CARES Act, AIP & Equipment

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee to support the total cost of \$5,655,000.00 for CARES, AIP projects and equipment cost. (Gayle Gallant abstained)

In favor: 4 (Roger Peabody, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission to support the total cost of \$5,655,000.00 for CARES, AIP projects and equipment cost.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was passed

Stipends:

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Stipend request for Knox County Regional Airport Employees in the amount of \$32,472.00 to the CARES Act list.

In favor: 6 (Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Stipend request for Knox County Regional Airport Employees in the amount of \$32,472.00 to the CARES Act list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item was approved

General:

- Administrator Hart stated the final vote & Public Hearing the dates of May 12th and May 17th were discussed. However, due to the time constraints the notification with the press for May 12th will not work. Do we want to pick two dates so we can have to fall back on? We just need to make sure we have a quorum of Budget Committee and Commissioners for this final meeting.
 - A Budget Committee member suggested May 24th or 26th.
 - Administrator Hart stated the earliest date to have the meeting would be May 17th.
 - A Commissioner reminded all that these organizations and employees have been waiting along time for this to happen. The Public Hearing will be a quick meeting.
 - Administrator Hart stated in the past we have scheduled this final vote meeting at 6 P.M.
-
- *Gayle Gallant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Grover seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
 - *A motion was made by Commissioner Pohlman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent. A vote was taken with both in favor.*

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Galvin
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on May 17, 2022.