

**MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT SESSION
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022
5:00 P.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at the meeting: Brenda Hardy, Andrew Hall and Tim Shumaker.

The following Fountain County Council were present at the meeting: Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Bill Glover, Kelly Carlson, Dale Clawson, Jim McKee and Jim Hershberger.

Commissioner President, Brenda Hardy, opened the meeting for the Commissioners. Council President, Dudley Cruea, opened the meeting for the Council.

ARPA FUNDS

Town of Kingman

Kendal Buker, Clerk/Treasurer of Kingman gave an overview and history of the situation with the water and sewer utilities. They are both in dire need of repair. Gary Ladd, of Ladd Engineering, went over the proposal and numbers with the Commissioners/Council for the scaled down project. The Town of Kingman will be short approximately \$459,832. It was also noted that Kingman has raised their water rates to meet the requirements of the USDA grant. Kendal stated that the citizens could not bear any more expense for utilities.

Dudley Cruea asked if the Council had any questions in regards to the request. Tim Shumaker stated that the Commissioner agreed to not exceed \$450,000 for the Town of Kingman.

Tom Booe made a motion and was seconded by Jim Hershberger to approve the request for the Town of Kingman in an amount to not exceed \$450,000 from the ARPA funds. Vote: 7-0

WEGA/Incubator Project

Rod Bannon, Patricia Hargan, Brian Craft, and Sharon Negele asked the Commissioner/Council to consider their request for \$500,000. They will need \$750,000 but are only asking for the \$500,000. It was also suggested that the County could give them a loan in the amount of \$250,000. The WEGA board handed out supporting information in favor of the project to the Council and Commissioners.

The Attica High School has received a grant for Pathways to help launch a work study program for high school students to help with the incubator. The course program will have mentors to walk them thru the process.

Tim Shumaker stated that the building will always be there no matter if the project fails or not and felt like the county should support the project.

There was discussion on the reporting. The Auditor will get with Barnes and Thornburg to have them answer some questions on this subject.

Jim McKee made a motion to give the WEGA board \$500,000 grant plus a loan in the amount of \$250,000 for the incubator project. Kelly Carlson seconded the motion. Vote: 3-3-1

(Yay- Kelly Carlson, Jim McKee and Dale Clawson; Nay – Bill Glover, Tom Booe, Jim Hershberger; Abstain – Dudley Crucea)

Discussion was heard in regards to the vote. Andrew Hall asked if there was something about the motion that could be changed in order to support the request. Council would like to see members of the WEGA board to include members from all over the county since it was stressed that it is a county project and not a City of Attica project, although the city is giving them money towards the project. Council would also like to protect their investment.

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Kelly Carlson to give \$500,000 grant to the WEGA Board for the Incubator Project with the contingency that they have a county wide board and the County will recover the percentage that they put into the project if the project would fail. Vote: 7-0

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to accept the Council’s recommendation for the WEGA/Incubator project. Vote: 3-0

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The software used to tract the birth and death records for the health department will be approximately \$20,000 to separate the records between the two counties. It was decided to split the cost 50/50 and pay from the Local Health Maintenance fund.

The remaining grants should be a one-third, two-thirds split based on population. Brenda and Colleen have both talked with people from the State on this matter.

The Commissioners and Council agreed that an inventory should be done at the Health Department soon.

They would like to hire a nurse for Fountain County now, if possible, so that training could be done. Commissioners will consult with the County Attorney. They will also be advertising for a Clerk/Registrar for the department. They need to confirm that the application for the PHEP grant has or will be done for 2023.

There was discussion as to the salaries for the Health Department. The Council has committed to an approximate increase of 10%.

Economic Development/Grant Writer/County Maintenance

Discussion was heard in regards to the pros and cons of possibly hiring someone for each of these positions.

COMMISSIONERS:

TRANSFER REQUEST – Cum Reassessment

From:	1224-0000-33080	Web Site	
To:	1224-0000-33300	Travel	\$4,000

This request is due to the required classes for Assessor and Deputies.

Statewide 911 Fund

From: 1222-0000-10600 Part time

To: 1222-0000-10000 Social Security \$5,500

Transfer to cover the shortfall in the social security line item.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to approve the transfer requests in the total amount of \$9,500.

Vote: 3-0

Closing of Meeting

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to close the Commissioner side of the meeting.

Vote:

3-0

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to close the Council side of the meeting.

Vote: 7-0

Commissioners

Andrew Hall
Tim Shumaker
Brenda Hardy

Council

Attest:

Cover Chambers