

SPENCER COUNTY FISCAL COURT
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021, 5:30 PM
Pursuant to KRS 61.800-61.850

21NOV 2 8:49A

A. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by County Judge Executive, John Riley.

B. New business

1. ARPA funding -Danielle Story with KIPDA will discuss contract and how to move forward with projects using ARPA funds.

Ms. Story was not present. Discussion ensued regarding the use of ARPA funds. Discussion continued which included the possibility of using ARPA funding for broadband expansion to areas that were currently under served, or not served. The Judge remarked that he thought that constructing a sports complex would be an acceptable use of ARPA funds and that Spencer County had 3.74 million dollars, in two tranches, of APRA funds. He asked Fiscal Court members what they would like to use the funding for, and what they would like to discuss with Ms. Story that evening. The Judge commented that they had Ben U'Sellis from Spectrum there and that he had sent him the resolution that the Judge had passed out to everyone in order for them to move forward with broadband expansion with Spectrum. Esq. Beaverson asked if he could read a statement into the minutes and was granted permission to do so.

ARPA Funds for Spencer County

Brett N. Beaverson
 Magistrate, District 5
 Spencer County

As we proceed with discussions on spending the first of two \$1.88M allocations of the 2021 COVID-19 Stimulus Package (ARPA), we must remind ourselves and our constituents several undeniable truths. Let us not forget the party line split of this bill and the resulting economic fallout from the hypocrisy in this bill and the Biden administration policies.

1. The \$1.9T economic stimulus package was passed during a time when our federal government actively destroyed our economy by shutting down American oil pipelines while propping up Russian oil pipelines; opening our southern border to the entire world in an inhumane, illegal process, and without the same COVID restrictions and protections demanded on American citizens; pushing job-killing mandates such as vaccinations while incentivizing the unemployed to remain unemployed; and reinstating transportation regulations on truck drivers, previously suspended by President Trump.
2. The initial House bill vote was 218–212 before being amended.
3. The initial Senate vote to start the reconciliation process was a tie across party lines and broken by Vice President Kamala Harris. The House followed with a 219–209 vote.
4. The House Budget Committee split their passing vote 19–16 and the revised House Bill passed 219–212 on February 27, 2021.
5. On March 10, 2021, the Senate version of the bill passed 50-49 and the amended House Bill passed 220-211. Only one Democrat voted against the final bill with all the Republicans.

6. The bill was signed into law on March 11, 2021 by President Joe Biden.
7. The funds from the American Rescue Plan Act arrived in Spencer County at a time when our receipts are up even during a pandemic year.

As with any federal funds, there are restrictions, reporting, and bureaucratic hoops to prevent penalties. Funds from ARPA are no exception and KIPDA is coming to the rescue with extensive services for participating Kentucky counties while being paid 1% of each county's ARPA funds, whether spent or not.

Already, several entities surfaced looking for a piece of the Spencer County allotment of the Biden "rescue" plan. Who pays? President Biden says it's free. *Wait – he was referring to the \$5T Infrastructure Bill on top of the \$1.9T ARPA.* We're at a point where the grandchildren of people not yet born will pay for this reckless track toward socialism. Local and state governments must push back and not take the bait. The insatiable greed of all levels of government, *who do nothing to make money*, will always be at the tax dollar trough ready to mismanage the people's money. This is our chance to push back and say, "This county will not be part of the socialist agenda."

Folks, we're a very small part of this very large scheme. It's up to each of us to decide our morals on spending and being "slave to the lender". Does your support for spending these funds in Spencer County meet *any* moral criteria, assessment on greed, or is there fear of a missed opportunity to better our community by becoming a slave to our federal government for years to come.

Esq. Brewer commented that nobody sitting in the room gave back the stimulus checks that the government sent them for their personal houses. He said he looked at this stimulus as a stimulus for the County and anytime they could invest in the County to make it better, he thought it was a good opportunity to do that.

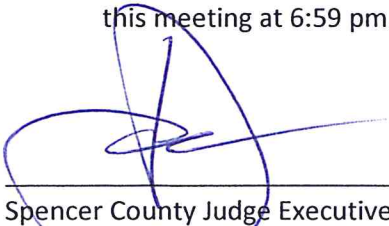
- Motion made by Esq. Beaverson, seconded by Esq. Travis, with all members of the Court present voting "aye" by voice vote, except Esq. M. Moody, who was absent, it is hereby ordered to excuse the absence of Esq. M. Moody.

Ms. Story began by saying she could start with some basic do's and don'ts. The Judge remarked he wanted to dive right into expanding broadband. Ms. Story remarked that broadband was an eligible expenditure, as

well as water and sewer infrastructure was. They would need to pass a resolution that would reference the specific expenditure to the guidelines. The sample resolution that had been sent to the Court members did not specifically reference how the County wanted to use ARPA funds for broadband expansion in Spencer County. Ms. Story asked Mr. U'Sellis if there would be any problem editing the resolution and he remarked there would not, and they were looking for some sort of commitment of funds. Ms. Story remarked that an committed ARPA funds would have to be committed in the budget, but that a budget amendment was not necessary. The Judge remarked that the application deadline was October 25th, and that they would not have another Fiscal Court meeting before then. The Judge remarked that he had also received a sample resolution from Bardstown Cable who wanted the County to commit \$50,000.00. Mr. U'Sellis remarked that it would be in the County's best interest to enter into agreements with as many companies as they wanted, however, he did not feel that both projects would be chosen, because there most likely would be overlap in the households that would be affected by the expansion. Ms. Story said that they needed to make sure that there was not overlap in the applications. Mr. U'Sellis said that they had mapped out the county using all available data. They could determine internet speeds using advertised data. They had identified 1287 homes and businesses that did not have speeds of at least 25Mbps and most were under 10Mbps. Once they identified that number, they could determine the cost, which he said was around 8 million dollars. He remarked that they could go after around half that amount from the State's broadband grant program, and the application was in support of the first round of funding, or around 50 million dollars of 250 million of state grants. Spectrum would be the applicant and Spencer County would be the contributing sponsor. Spencer County's portion of this upgrade would be \$500,000.00. Discussion continued with the Judge asking Mr. U'Sellis to edit the resolution so that the Court pass it at the next, regular meeting, which would immediately follow the special meeting. The resolution would not be specific to Spectrum, and Mr. U'Sellis said that the county could back out, even if the grant was awarded. Ms. Story confirmed that ARPA funds could not be used to match grant requirements. This was in reference to the ballfield lighting project, which was currently out for bid. The Judge brought up outdoor recreation as a possible use for APRA funds. Esq. Travis mentioned the possibility of a Farmer's Market. It would be a regional Farmer's Market. It would be enclosed and open air together. He said that It might be used as a Covid testing facility. Ms. Story remarked that there was potential there. The Judge asked about using ARPA funds to build buildings to house ambulances out in the County. Ms. Story did not think this would qualify for ARPA funding use.

Discussion continued, no action taken

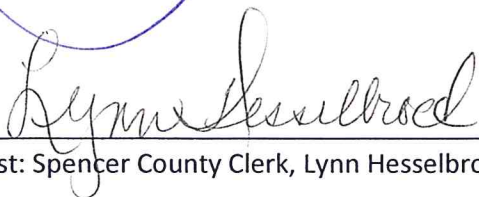
- Motion made by Esq. Brewer, seconded by Esq. Beaverson, with all members of the Court present voting "aye" by voice vote, except Esq. M. Moody, who was absent, it is hereby ordered to adjourn this meeting at 6:59 pm.



Spencer County Judge Executive, John Riley

11-1-21

Date



Attest: Spencer County Clerk, Lynn Hesselbrock

11-2-2021

Date