

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A WORKSHOP
SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021 AT 4:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE DON ADAMS, AND KENNY HALE. KIM MERIDETH, COUNTY COUNCIL; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; DAN BASTIN, COUNTY AUDITOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY WERE ALSO PRESENT. BRYAN COLLIER WAS ABSENT.

This Meeting was held to Discuss the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Josh Messmer stated that the draft plan for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was released this week and he is working through it. NACo (National Association of Counties) will be offering guidance along the way. The rule will be finalized in August. Mr. Messmer and Mr. Bastin have set up a portal so the first half of the \$13,691,662.00 can be deposited, which is expected within the next eight days. The second half will be deposited within a year from the date of the first disbursement. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, but does not need to be spent until December 31, 2026. There will be restrictions as to how the funds may be used; for example, it can be used to replace revenue that has been lost. Dan Bastin stated that the areas that come to mind are Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) Fund and Innkeepers. The base year is an average of 2017, 2018 and 2019. Mr. Messmer stated that the revenue loss would be an aggregate, so if one fund lost revenue but another gained, it could be a wash.

Mr. Messmer would like the attendees to work as a team to decide how to move forward. There will be a lot of ideas and requests and they could meet as a full body of the Council and Commissioners, or a committee, or subcommittee. Kenny Hale suggested a committee of business leaders that could field the requests and bring them to the Commissioners and/or Council. Mr. Hale stated that they need to leverage this funding with other agencies in order to maximize opportunities to help the community. Mr. Messmer noted that it could not be used as matching funds for other federal programs. Dan Bastin noted that a lot of the permissible uses are not typically services that Indiana counties provide and asked if they should see if there is a need and find a way to provide the services or if it is just something they can't utilize. If money is expended on something that is later determined to be an ineligible expense, then the county would have to repay it. Any funds not spent would be returned to the US Treasury.

Mr. Messmer asked that they let him know when they are ready to move forward and this would be added to the Commissioners' and/or Council's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Don Adams

Attest:

Kenny Hale

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

Bryan Collier