



COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

JUNE 1, 2021

Christine Husom	District 1
Darek Vetsch	District 2
Mark Daleiden	District 3
Mary Wetter	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek	District 5

DATE APPROVED: [DATE]

Members Present: Husom, Vetsch, Daleiden, Wetter, Kaczmarek

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Lee Kelly, Matthew Fomby, Greg Kryzer, Sarah Grosshuesch, Heather Lemieux, Elizabeth Karels, Pete Kile, Andrew Burgdorf, and Jeremy Greening; (Attending Remotely): Mike MacMillan, Tony Rasmuson, Lindsey Meyer, Christine Partlow, Schawn Johnson, Lori Pawelk, Peter Sorenson, Jill Pooler, and Frank Petitta

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORMAT AND REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY BOARD

I. BUFFALO CLINIC MEMORIAL

Dr. Andrew Burgdorf, Physician Lead for Allina Health Crossroads Clinic in Buffalo, made a presentation concerning concept work that has been done on the creation of a bronze memorial stemming from the Feb. 9 shootings at the clinic. Burgdorf said discussions of a memorial have focused not on the trauma or criminality of the event, but the community coming together in response to the tragedy. He said if a memorial is to be done, it shouldn't be at the clinic itself, but rather in a prominent location, such as a county facility. Burgdorf said he met with Wes Jones, a Wright County resident who specializes in bronze artwork. Jones mocked up a sculpture of a nearly five-foot wingspan peace crane at a cost of approximately \$10,000 – as well as a smaller version that would be less expensive.

Husom said getting firm cost estimates could help guide the decision of how to proceed. She added the Government Center could be a location option given the amount of daily foot traffic in the building. Husom added that bronze plates memorializing those involved in the heroic events of that day that could be included at the base of the sculpture. Vetsch asked if the county is being asked for space to house the sculpture or to pay the costs. Burgdorf said the project would be a generational piece that would be permanently placed in a fixed location, adding that Allina would be handing off the project so it can get back to providing health care.

Husom said the next step would be to reach out to Jones to provide concept design plans. Vetsch asked where the City of Buffalo was in this process. Husom said she hasn't spoken with city officials about a potential partnership. Burgdorf said Allina would not be able to fund the project. Vetsch said the memorial is a great idea, but he believes the City of Buffalo should take the lead because, from the county perspective, if funds are allocated for one municipality it could open the door for other municipalities to expect similar funding for potential future memorial projects. He added that, while the county could be a partner to some extent, whether it be providing a location or some funding, the City of Buffalo should be the driver on the project.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize Husom to reach out to Buffalo Mayor Teri Lachermeier to gauge the willingness of the city to take the lead on the Allina clinic memorial project moving forward and come back to the county board with details of those conversations.

II. ABM INDUSTRIES CONTRACT DISCUSSION

County Administrator Lee Kelly provided background on the cleaning services contract with ABM Industries for county facilities and introduced ABM Senior District Manager Jeremy Greening to the board if the commissioners had specific questions. Kaczmarek asked if it is typical procedure for a large contract (\$625,000 annually) to come up for board review after it has expired. Kelly stated the three-year contract expired in April 2021, a revised contract was presented in late-April and the signing of the contract was delayed awaiting discussions the board had brought up about the proposed revised contract in May. Kelly said typical procurement contracts don't always come before the board but given the size of the contract and that the contract had expired, it required board approval.

Kaczmarek pointed out that the contract lists several county facilities, but does not include the Compost & Recycling Center and the Sheriff's Office Training Center (SOTC). He asked how those buildings are being cleaned. Daleiden said the Compost & Recycling Center doesn't need to be professionally cleaned because there are only two employees on site, and they clean up their workspaces themselves. Kile said county maintenance staff goes to the SOTC at least once a week and county staff does the work because of the security requirements the FBI has in place at the facility. Kile added that the facility is being used much more often than initially anticipated. Kaczmarek asked if the job classifications of county maintenance employees cleaning the SOTC are viewed differently than cleaning work at other county facilities. Human Resources Director Schawn Johnson said most job descriptions include "other duties as assigned by a supervisor" verbiage and that the cleaning of the SOTC by county maintenance staff falls under job description language.

Kaczmarek said the contract contains language about criminal background checks of ABM employees and asked Greening about that process. Greening said ABM's Human Resources division handles all background checks and drug screenings, adding that more thorough background checks are done for AMB employees working in the jail and Justice Center. Kaczmarek asked about the difference in cleaning an office that is locked as opposed to one that is unlocked. Greening said ABM employees do not enter a locked office – when waste collects in a locked office, trash cans are placed outside the locked office and disposed of or completed through special request in an existing scheduling system. Kile said maintenance staff does monthly walk-throughs of all county facilities to address issues as they arise.

Kaczmarek stated that when the county initially contracted with ABM, it was determined that there was a savings of approximately \$250,000 over the projection of paying in-house staff, adding that the initial contract was approximately \$200,000 less than is currently being paid. Husom said one of the primary reasons for the change is there is much more square footage now that the Justice Center has opened. She added that, when the county moves into the new Government Center, the existing Government Center and the Human Services Center will no longer be part of the contract. Vetsch said if the county was to get rid of the ABM contract, it would require the hiring of 6.5 full-time employees at a cost of approximately \$425,000 with wages and benefits. Equipment and supplies would increase \$50,000-\$75,000. Vetsch added that the primary difference in contracting the work is the elimination of county liability, which could be much more costly to the county. The contracting option factoring in the reduction of risk to the county makes that option more attractive. Kelly said the current extension of the contract runs through April 2022, by which time all county operations will be on a single campus, adding that the increase in cost is related to the addition of the Justice Center to the contract.

Kaczmarek asked whether a contract of this size should be put out for bid. Daleiden said that, by April 2022, there will be a much better handle on the amount of work that is required to clean county facilities and the contract will go out for bids at that time.

RECOMMENDATION: No action taken.

III. COMMISSIONER SPACE IN NEW GOVERNMENT CENTER

Daleiden stated that Kaczmarek had expressed a concern about commissioner safety in their offices in the new Government Center but reminded the commissioners that the new commissioner offices will be beyond a secured

area and will require an employee badge with access permissions to enter that area. Kaczmarek said when he toured the facility, he came up with what he felt were reasonable and practical changes that could be made. His proposal was to have a glass window alongside the commissioner office doors so a commissioner can clearly see who is standing outside a closed door of a commissioner office. Kelly said if this change would be made, it should be made to all offices or none – not a “one-off” request for a single commissioner. Kelly added it is possible to be done but would require a change order.

Daleiden said that, since it’s behind a secured area, it doesn’t seem like it is necessary. Vetsch said he would like to have uniformity. Kaczmarek said the proposed changes would provide additional safety for commissioners. Daleiden said if all the commissioner offices were subject to a change order, the additional cost would be \$14,000-15,000. Kryzer said there are different styles of glass in different locations of the Justice Center, but all areas within specific offices are the same for the sake of aesthetic consistency. Kaczmarek said if two commissioners want a different door/window style, that should be their ability to do so. The consensus was that, if changes to the doors are to be made, now is the time to do it and the changes should be made to all offices, not just one or two.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize a change order to alter the style of the door construction for county commissioner offices in the new Government Center.

IV. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The committee was presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Wright County was awarded \$26,878,110 in ARPA funds - \$13,439,055 has been received and the other \$13,439,055 will be received in 2022. There were four funding buckets of eligible uses identified for the funds:

- Responding to the Public Health Emergency
- Addressing Negative Economic Impacts
- Serving the Hardest Hit
- Improving Access to Infrastructure

Finance Director Lindsey Meyer said that Wright County has no revenue loss for 2020, but the ARPA rules haven’t be finalized and the figures can be recalculated annually for 2021, 2022 and 2023 – which will include a potential increase in inflation rates. Lost revenue areas would include building new infrastructure (including roads), maintenance of existing infrastructure, cybersecurity, health services, education services and police/public safety services. Because the final guidance has not been completed, Meyer said she isn’t confident in giving a recommendation about lost revenue expenses at this time. Ineligible uses would include offsetting a tax cut, deposit in pension funds, bolstering rainy day reserves or debt service payments.

The board was presented with a breakdown of the four funding buckets, their eligible uses, some funding estimates associated with those uses and ideas that have been presented by county staff under sub-headings in the four primary funding buckets.

Responding to the Public Health Emergency – Under “COVID-19 Mitigation,” potential uses include pandemic unknown costs, a large programmable sign for future vaccine clinics and secure drop boxes in each district. Under “Behavioral Health Care,” potential uses include mental health support by expanding outreach program and integrated services, as well as transportation for residents experiencing mental health crisis. Public Health Director Sarah Grosshuesch and Social Services Manager Jill Pooler both detailed some of the prospective uses of funds in both mitigation and behavioral health care and discussed specific issues tied into several of the items listed as ideas generated by county staff for the use of funds.

Addressing Negative Economic Impacts – Under “Workers and Families,” some potential uses include vocational training at Wright Tech Center, the creation and expansion of accredited programs for youths/adults, assisting

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training, offering training/educational grants, expand energy assistance, creating Trailblazer Transit routes to and from the Government Center and the expansion of Safe Families program. Under “Small Businesses,” some potential uses include providing funding to the Wright County Economic Development Partnership, another round of small business relief funding, business counseling and technical assistance. Under “Public Sector,” potential uses include Health & Human Services customer relations management (including single client I.D. numbers to improve service delivery) and the purchase of body cameras for the Wright County Sheriff’s Office. Meyer said the purchase of body cameras may have to come off the list if the county doesn’t display any lost revenues. Health & Human Services Business Manager Christine Partlow explained the improvement in the delivery of service that could be provided by the single client ID number system, whether as a stand-alone project for Wright County or a collaborative project between multiple counties.

Serving the Hardest Hit – Under “Housing and Neighborhoods,” some potential uses include increasing workforce housing for low-income individuals to sustain housing while working or attempting to find work (a collaboration with the Initiative Foundation/7W counties) and transitional housing. Under “Educational Disparity,” some potential uses include providing assistance to Wright County school districts and social/economic learning resources for area schools. Under “Healthy Environments,” some potential uses include grant funding for expansion of childcare services and supplementing childcare assistance programs. Vetsch said that if \$1.5 million was allocated to school districts it would translate to a funding amount of \$45,000 to each of the 11 school districts that serve children in Wright County for the next three years.

Improving Access to Infrastructure – Under “Water and Sewer,” some potential uses include matching grants for city water projects. Under “Broadband,” it has already been discussed that up to \$10 million will be allocated to improve broadband service to portions of the county that are currently underserved and work in conjunction with ISB providers. Daleiden expressed concern that the \$3 million that has been floated out as a funding option for city water projects could be exhausted very quickly because of the expense involved with such projects. Daleiden also said that the expansion of broadband in underserved areas of the county or single-provider areas could create competition among ISB providers, which would benefit consumers. Projects Administrator Elizabeth Karels said that a Request for Proposal was sent out for consulting firms to conduct a broadband feasibility study.

RECOMMENDATION: Continue the discussion of how to proceed with the administration of the American Rescue Plan Act to 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 8

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 P.M.

Minutes submitted by John Holler, Communications Specialist