

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 24th, 2022
3:00 P.M.

Present: Johnny Buckley, Brenda Abercrombie and Ben Bridges. Also present: Laura Hartt, Tommy Ormond, Lance Futch, Minor Patton, Stephanie Walker, Jerry Lazenby, Nathan Pilgreen and James Wicker.

Mrs. Abercrombie called the meeting to order. Mr. Buckley led the group in prayer.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Buckley and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Bridges to adopt the minutes from the February 16th, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held regarding the reimbursement process for the generators. Mrs. Hartt addressed the committee regarding the lag in payment for the materials that have been ordered and paid for by the water districts. Mrs. Hartt has researched whether the jury can reimburse for items such as generators before they are delivered. Mrs. Hartt said that any time you are dealing with federal money you are not supposed to pay for something you did not receive. After extensive research, Mrs. Hartt has come to the conclusion that if the generator reimbursement were processed then that would be an considered an improper payment. Mrs. Hartt has received two reimbursement requests for generators. Mrs. Hartt further stated that as soon as the generators are received then the reimbursement request will be processed in a timely fashion.

Mr. Buckley stated that he has an issue with not reimbursing the water companies for the generators if they have already been paid for. Mr. Buckley stated that the water systems were initially told they would be reimbursed with no issue.

Mr. Bridges stated that one of the water systems is going to get a loan to cover the cost of the generators/equipment. The system will spend a small amount on interest, but will receive a \$300,000 grant. Mr. Bridges further stated that it may be an inconvenience to borrow the funds, but look at the benefits you will receive.

Mrs. Hartt addressed the committee regarding change orders. There have been several questions regarding change orders. A couple of the water systems have asked if the award monies can be used for something else if a water system has anything left out of their award. The water system can submit a change order and the committee will make a determination regarding authorization.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to recommend to the full jury to provide funding in an amount up to \$15,000 for server/software upgrades at the Annex. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges to recommend to the full jury to provide funding in an amount up to \$21,552 for installation of a new audio/video system for the small courtroom. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to recommend to the full jury to provide funding to the Union Parish Assessor in an amount up to \$20,500 for website mapping and in-house equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no more business to come before the committee, Mrs. Abercrombie declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Bridges and duly seconded by Mr. Buckley on this the 24th day of March, 2022.

Brenda Abercrombie, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer