

## **CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - WORKGROUP**

**10:30 A.M., TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022**

Rooms A/B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Courthouse

### **MINUTES**

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in a workgroup session with the following Commissioners present: Jenna Kahly, Frank Gross, Jenny Mongeau, Kevin Campbell, and David Ebinger. County staff present: Stephen Larson, Brian Melton, Mark Sloan, Lori J. Johnson, Kathy McKay, Troy Amundsen, Darren Brooke, and Colleen Eck.

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens present.

#### **REDISTRICTING INFORMATION**

Lori Johnson, County Auditor – Treasure, noted that the census numbers are in from the 2020 census. She listed the deciding factors for redistricting. One factor is a commissioner's district varying more than 10 percent from any other districts in the County. She showed the 2012 population after redistricting 10 years ago. Due to population growth in District 3 over the last ten years, 10 percent is exceeded. Three thousand need to be shifted out of District 3. The population shift in and out cannot be over five percent.

Mark Sloan, Information Services Director, noted that the 2020 census block data came from Secretary of State's Office. The City of Moorhead has balanced their wards and came up with new precinct boundaries. A map was provided to show the boundaries. Moorhead will finalize their precinct boundaries when it is addressed at their March 28 meeting. The deadline to finalize the boundaries is March 29.

The total 2020 County population is 65,318. The target population of a district is 13,064 with a minimum of 11,758 and maximum of 14,370. Option 1-4 were shown. Option 2 does not meet the minimum population in District 3. Option 4 does not meet the maximum population in District 4. Option 1 was pointed out as the best option with the following changes: Kragnes Township would move from District 4 to District 2 (255 people); Moorhead City Ward 2 Precinct 4 would move from Districts 1 to District 4 (2,630 people); and Moorhead City Ward 4 Precinct 13 would move from District 3 to District 1 (359 people). There would be no change to District 5. Both Commissioners Mongeau and Campbell expressed concern that under Option 1, rural Clay County would see a decrease in the number of Commissioners from three to two and asked if all options had been explored. Option 3 would also work for the population distribution. The townships have never been split between commissioners. Each township has had just one commissioner and the County cannot divide municipality boundaries. A public hearing will be scheduled at the April 12 County Board meeting to select between Options 1 and 3. The County will then have an additional two weeks to their deadline. The only commissioner who must run for re-election out of cycle would be Commissioner Kahly in District 1. Further discussion ensued regarding the redistricting options and the effects it would have on the Commissioners.

#### **DETOXIFICATION CENTER PLANNING UPDATE**

Stephen Larson, County Administrator, commented that he will reach out to Scott Fettig with Klein McCarthy Architects regarding the pre-design report for the detox center. The report will need to include

updates to the existing two-story floor plan, a new one-story floor plan, and plans for a future second story expansion. Site plans with cost estimates are needed for each option. The site plans will be on a three-acre survey to be carved out by Houston Engineers. Aerial views will be required in the report to show the footprints for a one-story building and two-story building. They will need to consider the location for power when designing the site plans. The information will be used to establish an actual project budget. To satisfy the terms of the grant, an estimated duration of the building needs to be submitted along with the survey. Mr. Larson will ask for a timeline from Mr. Fettig to be sure they have a path forward.

A Detox Committee meets regularly and is working on additional revenues to pay for the new facility. The Crisis Abuse Substance Services will be a regional facility. They intend to work with Fargo, Cass County, Sanford, and Essentia after some concrete numbers are in place.

### **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

Mr. Larson provided slides and handouts to update the Board on the status of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The ARPA Committee, which includes Commissioners Mongeau and Campbell, meets every two weeks. Clay County received just over \$12.4 million in ARPA funds; \$6.2 million received in June 2021 and the second half will come in June 2022. The period of time goes from March 3, 2021, thru December 31, 2024, with an additional two years to actually expend the funds. The U.S. Treasury provided five categories to utilize the funds. On February 1, 2022, the Board took action to take the standard allowance for the funds. Darren Brooke provided a spreadsheet for the funding categories, dollar amounts, descriptions of expenditures, names, and dates approved by the Board. The categories are Community Resiliency, Business Support Services, Infrastructure, Public Health Outreach and Services, County Reimbursements for COVID-19; and Other. ARPA funds spent to date are \$2.8 million. Some of the requests have been for two-year obligations with a review after the first year. All receipts/invoices are filed for the audit process. A sum of \$500,000 can be kept in reserve for future spending opportunities. Other possible County projects/facilities were touched upon and will need further review.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

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Jenny Mongeau, Chair  
County Board of Commissioners

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Stephen Larson, County Administrator