

# MINUTES

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.**

111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw MI 48602

**Present:** Gerald Little - Committee Chair, Christopher Boyd, Lisa Coney, Denny Harris, John Kaczynski, Sheldon Matthews, Mark Piotrowski, Tracey Slodowski, Richard Spitzer, Jack Tany, and Michael Webster

**Others:** Vanessa Guerra, Mary Catherine Hannah, Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, Undersheriff Gomez, Tom Heidger, Jaime Ceja, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Hurley Coleman, Rob Brown, Abbey Stemple, Joseph Ruthig, Suzy Koepplinger, Renee Sharkey and Catherine Hicks

- I. Call to order – ***Vice-Chair Little at 4:00 p.m.***
- II. Welcome
- III. Public comment – None
- IV. Agenda

(1) Mary Catherine Hannah, County Administrator, updated commissioners on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations. The following are highlights of the discussion:

- \$37M obligated to initiatives such as health, water, housing, and workforce development with focus on long-term community growth and impact
- \$16.7M has been expended as of July 2025
- As of July 2025, \$19.4M has been allocated to revenue replacement including,
  - County operations - projects-salaries/wages, JAVS system upgrades, and fire department upgrades
  - Infrastructure - demolition of Buena Vista motel
  - Community Development & Housing - housing assessment, new home & home repair program, Marie E. Davis Senior Center site improvements, Eleanor Frank Senior Center site improvements
  - Economic Revitalization - Medical Diamond
  - Parks & Recreation - ADA upgrades at various parks and completion of Ojibway Island stage, gazebo and park improvements through a combined effort with the City of Saginaw.
- Administrator Hannah advised she is working with Guidehouse Consulting and commented on how efficient they have been.

(2) Sub-recipient updates:

- Joseph Ruthig, Chesaning Township Supervisor, distributed pictures and discussed the completed, ADA compliant, handicap accessible, kayak launch at Parshallburg Park and the kayak landing at Cole Park, on the Shiawassee River, in the Township/Village of Chesaning. He is optimistic that this launch will help increase tourism. He expressed his gratitude for the ARPA money that was awarded for this project and talked about installing a sign at the site in recognition of Saginaw County's contribution.

- Hurley Coleman III, Executive Director/CEO, Saginaw Community Action Committee, advised the committee of the progress on building repairs. CAC is utilizing ARPA funding to expand food access and education through targeted facility and equipment upgrades including food storage and transportation equipment, a mobile unit to reach underserved neighborhoods, and renovations to the food pantry and Learning Center as well as enhanced signage to increase visibility. These improvements include updating the food pantry and fencing at 2824 Perkins, pavement and fencing at 800 S. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, and waterproofing, gutters and lighting at 1443 E. Genesee Street.
- Hurley Coleman III also informed the committee of Saginaw Community Action Committee's progress on various housing repairs on approximately 25 owner-occupied homes, condominiums and permanently affixed modular or manufactured units promoting safe, sustainable housing and improving residents' overall quality of life. Director Coleman shared that CAC's efforts have impacted homeowners in Spaulding Township, Buena Vista, Bridgeport, Carrollton, Chesaning, Oakley, and Thomas Township with improvements such as roofs, doors, windows, furnaces, boilers, help with delinquent property taxes, and insurance, and the purchase of refrigerators and stoves.
- Saginaw - Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, Abbey Stemple, stated they expect to draw down their ARPA contribution by the end of the month. There are 10 units. Nine are in the Covenant Hospital area and one is on River Road near Gratiot Road (M46). The houses will be sold at appraisal price which is estimated to be \$220,000 per house. It is expected they will close on all the houses by October 2026. Webster requested the county be represented on some signage on the properties.
- Rob Brown, Executive Director, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Community Center, reported that 100% of the ARPA money allocated to 1<sup>st</sup> Ward has been drawn. The gymnasium, café and kitchen were renovated, and a mobile office unit, utility truck and air conditioning were purchased.

### (3) Other Issues of Interest

- The committee asked for a graph of the dollars spent across the county for the various projects completed with ARPA grant money and that the committee review progress again in June 2026 to make the public aware of where the ARPA money was spent. Pictures were requested for that meeting and visual communication. Commissioner Webster requested the website be updated to capture more of what is happening in the county because of the awarded ARPA money.
- Vice-Chair Little thanked the speakers and the Board for their diligence during this process and for their ideas concerning the ARPA funds awarded to Saginaw County.

V. Miscellaneous - None

VI. Adjournment

- ***Moved by Harris, seconded by Coney, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:46 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Gerald Little, Committee Chair  
 Vanessa Guerra, County Clerk