

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF THE OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, THE OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, THE OZARK FOOTHILLS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT COUNCIL & ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE RIPLEY COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY

**March 11, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Brian Polk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held December 10, 2020, and financial statements for the quarter ending December 31, 2020, were reviewed. Member Samantha Evans made a motion to approve the minutes of the December, 2020, meeting and financial reports. Vice Chairman Paul Johnson seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings are getting back on schedule after being delayed last year from COVID-19. The prioritization process was moved back an entire quarter so we just wrapped that up in September 2020. April is County prioritization month and July is voting month for the region. Last week Coordinator Murphy had a meeting with the Butler County Commission and a public hearing, Monday he was in Reynolds County, Tuesday he was in Wayne County, Wednesday he was in Ripley County, and Friday he will be in Carter County. So far, there has been no public attendance at the meetings. At the April TAC meeting county prioritizations will be completed. Coordinator Murphy does not expect much change for the 2021 prioritization list.

Coordinator Murphy further reported on the Regional Transportation Plan Update is due in June. We update this plan every 2 years. This plan was presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) at the January, 2021 meeting. The TAC will be asked to adopt the update at the April 8, 2021 Meeting. The plan was presented to the OFRPC Board tonight for review and ask that you adopt the plan update in June, 2021, at which time the plan will be submitted to MODOT to be finalized. The Regional Transportation Plan Update is on the OFRPC website. Director Jones instructed the group on where to find the plan on the website.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that since acquiring the Briggs & Stratton cardboard contract in May, 2020, the Recycling Center has picked up over 1,026 bales of cardboard. Briggs is due for a large shipment over the summer and expects their cardboard to double. This increase in cardboard from Briggs & Stratton has helped the Recycling Center budget.

Director Jones informed the group that we are in the process of submitting applications to the SWMD for our Recycling Center. The Planning Commission submitted that application to the district last month and the Executive Committee was presented that application in the Executive Committee Meeting. No other applications were received. The OFRPC application was evaluated and was recommended for approval.

A Motion to approve Solid Waste Management District Sub Grant Award was made by Commissioner, Ron Keeney and seconded by Member Samantha Evans; all board members approved. With no opposition, the motion carried.

OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Jones informed the group that we have one incubator space still available. If anyone is interested in viewing it, they can contact our office. The space is about 2,500 square feet and a reasonable price.

OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Director Crystal Jones reported upon activities of the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF). As of March 8, 2021, the Community Foundation had \$1,601,125.81 as market value of funds. That amount has increased approximately \$200,000 since the last report and the increase is mostly due to the market. We have not had any large funds established yet but are working on one for the Naylor Community which will hopefully be in place at next meeting.

Director Jones informed the group about the COVID-19 Grant Round in which the Community Foundation had an opportunity for affiliates to apply for \$10,000 for their COVID-19 Recovery Fund. Ashley Hart submitted that application to CFO and the Community Foundation was awarded those funds. With those funds we will be regranting the monies out to organizations that were impacted by COVID-19 and are in the recovery phase but didn't qualify for any other types of assistance. Arts and humanities type organizations will qualify for this COVID Recovery Fund. \$10,000 is the maximum so we are looking for applications of \$2,500 up to \$5,000.00. The COVID-19 Recovery Fund application is available online. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2021. Please contact our office if anyone is interested and we will e-mail them the link to the online application.

RIPLEY COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY

Housing Coordinator Niki Harp reported upon the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program. The Ripley County PHA has 380 vouchers filled. In addition, we have 47 VASH vouchers filled. VASH vouchers are vouchers that are set aside for homeless Veterans. We took Section 8 applications the month of February and received 239 applications. We currently have 196 families on the waiting list. The waiting list is currently closed.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Tiffany Sheffy reported that there were 31 families participating in the FSS Program who are working towards goals such as gaining/retaining full-time employment, obtaining their GED/HS Diploma, and becoming homeowners. In the calendar year 2020 we had a total of 47 households enrolled in the FSS program. Two of those families successfully graduated the program by either getting their total household income over the HUD limit for their family size or by accomplishing the goals they set.

Housing Coordinator Sheffy also reported that there are now 14 families on the Homeownership program. Nineteen families have set the goal of home ownership.

Director Jones reported that we are in the process of updating our Annual Plan for the Ripley County Public Housing Agency. We submit the Annual Plan Resolutions to HUD for review and approval each year. With our submission we submit a Civil Rights Certification and PHA Certification of Compliance.

A Motion to approve the Annual Plan Resolutions was made by Commissioner, Ron Keeney and seconded by Vice Chairman Paul Johnson; all board members approved. With no opposition, the motion carried.

Director Jones discussed with the group the Moving to Work Program that we applied for in December, 2020. The Moving to Work ACC Amendment will allow our Housing Agency to apply certain waivers to our Section 8 Housing Program such as requiring clients to gain employment of 15 hours per week or go to school 15 hours per week if they are able bodied. This will not include elderly or disabled. Also, with this program we can put a cap on the length of time a client receives rental assistance which will be 5 years. This program is designed to move clients towards self- sufficiency. Clients will also be required to enroll in the FSS program which teaches them budgeting etc. The goal will be to move clients off of the Section 8 program quickly, and help others in need since we are limited on vouchers. Currently we are in the process of getting this program started and going through the training that HUD provides. The first step is to for the RCPHA Board to consider accepting the Moving to Work Amendment to Annual Contributions Contract from HUD.

A Motion to approve Moving to Work ACC Amendment was made by Commissioner, Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Ron Keeney; all board members approved. With no opposition, the motion carried.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

Director Jones, reported upon the grant awards received during the prior quarter. It was summarized as follows:

- Carter County/South Van Buren Sewer District, Missouri Department of Economic Development, replace faulty equipment at lift stations #3 and #4, \$237,162;
- Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation, Community Foundation of the Ozarks, to grant out to community non-profits who are in need of additional support due to COVID-19 and who were eligible for other types of relief funding, \$10,000;
- Ripley County Public Housing Agency, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds received to continue the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, \$43,605;
- Ripley County Public Housing Agency, Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds received to house 6 additional veterans through the VASH program, \$21,784;
- Ripley County Public Housing Agency, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds received to update the PHA's inventory management system and information system and information center software, \$25,000

GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Director Jones reported the New Grant Application Abstracts. A summary of each proposal was provided to those in attendance as an attachment to *Resolution #312*. A motion was made by Commissioner Jesse Roy and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

Director Jones informed the group about the New Grant Abstracts. Unfortunately, many of the grants are stuck at the State level waiting on awards. We have been told HUD has not released the funds and we are still waiting on awards.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Jones discussed with the group that we are in the process of updating the Ripley County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Felicity Ray has been working on it and been in contact with Jesse Roy in setting up the community meetings. In 2022 we need to have updated the Butler and Reynolds County Hazard Mitigation Plans. Chelsae Cordia is working on the Butler County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ashley Hart is working on the Reynolds County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Those counties will be hearing from Chelsae and Ashley to set up kick off meetings and start the planning process.

Director Jones further discussed with the group the OFRPC Membership Roster. We present this to the commission members each year. We have a few vacancies in the business, agriculture,

finance, and minority sectors. If you know of anyone willing to serve our region, contact our office.

Director Jones discussed the Building Improvement Updates. The updates that have been done to our building have been done via grants. At this point we have not had to pay any expenses out of pocket. The new updates include new sliding doors which were paid for by HUD and were installed last month. We also had the lobby and halls painted in the common hallway in the incubator space. We have had touchless faucets, toilets and light fixtures updated in incubator restrooms and office restrooms. These improvements were made through a grant from the Missouri Technology Corporation. We are hoping to do more restroom updates with new stall partitions. Also updated were the conference room chairs, a new office was built and a privacy wall was installed to separate an office space. Next on the list is a new roof.

Director Jones informed the group about the CDBG Application Cycle. Many applications were submitted for the communities and counties through the Disaster Recovery and the Mitigation application cycle in the Fall. We are still waiting on those awards. We also submitted additional CDBG applications to last year's 2020 regular competition. Those applications were submitted at the end of December 2020 and are listed in your packet. We do not have awards on those at this time. This year's competition application cycle should be released this Spring. The CDBG program manager said that they have not received their money from HUD for the last competition so she is unsure of when they will release this year's application cycle. They are hoping for a Spring release. If you have a CDBG project in mind, please contact our office.

Director Jones discussed with the group the Volkswagen Trust. Ashely Hart informed the group that they are expecting to decide in April on how to allocate the funds.

Director Jones informed the group about the Audits that we received from the CPA's last month. We have copies of those if anyone would like to see them or have them e-mailed. Nothing out of the ordinary was in the audit.

Director Jones discussed the Broadband Survey/Study. About a year ago we were the recipients of approximately \$400,000 from EDA to help the region with the recovery from COVID-19. The project we selected to focus on was broadband. We hired Hannah Barnett as a 1099 Staff Member to focus on broadband. One of the first things she did was procure a consultant to complete a Broadband Study. We are hoping the study will tell us what the economic impact is with us not having high speed broadband in our region. The study will also look at what the cost would be to deploy high speed broadband in our region. Hannah has put together a residential survey in electronic Survey Monkey format. We will release this survey in the next couple of weeks and hear from residents in our region about what kind of broadband service they have and what kind of speeds they are getting and costs they are paying. Residents will be able to take a speed test and it will map their exact location on a GIS map and it will collect their upload and download speed. We are hoping that the complete study will be done by June.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Brian Polk announced we are unsure of where the next meeting will be at this time. Vice-Chairman Paul Johnson thanked all the staff for putting together the commission meetings during COVID-19. Andrew advised that the next TAC meeting will be done virtually and in person. Chairman Polk advised the group that MODOT will not be attending any meetings in-person at least until the end of June and possibly longer.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Vince Jesse Roy, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Brian Polk, Chairman

Date

Ms. Margaret Carter, Secretary

Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	CHAD HENSON	PAUL JOHNSON
MADISON BAKER	VINCE LAMPE	TOM WILDER
RON KENNEY	MARGARET CARTER	SAMANTHA EVANS
JESSE ROY, JR.	GARY EMMONS	
REBECCA PACHECO		

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

KEVIN BYNUM		JOE LOYD
DOUG LEDBETTER	PAUL WOOD	DENNIS COX
JOHN MURRAY	CARROLL RAINWATER	ROBERT SMITH
WAYNE OGDEN	ANGELA CLYBURN	MILDRED COURSEY
RICK JULIUS	BILL KIRKPATRICK	REV. GREGORY KIRK
MIKE HOERNER	DR. GENE OAKLEY	SANDY JOY
GARY CONWAY, JR.	WAYNE GIBBS	BILL MORIARTY
STANLEY BARTON	DALE DAY	DARRELL DEMENT

STAFF

JAMIE LANSFORD

RICHARD KETCHUM

CHELSAE CORDIA

CRYSTAL JONES

DAVEY HICKS

BROOKE HINKLIN

CAMILLE DONNELL

ALAN LUTES

TIFFANY SHEFFY

ANDREW MURPHY

CAROLYN MEEKS

ASHLEY HART

ILENE WARD

AMY BAUGUS

NIKI HARP