

September 3, 2021 Memo #2- County Executive's Office

Subject: American Rescue Funds

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wanted to update you on the \$10,368,828 of the Rescue Funds.

This is the second update via email. The original was on July 28, 2021.

As of today, we have not been able to put any of the first seven (7) projects into the Federal portal.

The first item that must be submitted into the portal is **Loss of Revenue**. The Loss of Revenue calculation has been completed, reviewed by CTAS, and the Comptroller's Office and we are working on putting this into the portal. We will list this as Project 8 --ARP-08. This will allow us to more efficiently track our projects.

Since most of all the Primary Government projects (Projects in current or future budgets that qualified) have been approved, we are now at a point in which we may need to have a Work Session or series of Work Sessions.

Here is what I think and believe we should focus on: Setting Priorities.

1. What is our primary purpose and what are our priorities? Here are a few reasons why setting priorities are so important:
 - a. We will have both restricted and unrestricted funds.
 - b. We should not be spending funds strictly because funds are available: nor
 - c. Should we not spend funds just because a project may not qualify under specific restrictions? For example: Does Roane County need to make investments in recycling and solid waste? If the answer is yes, then the county should work to make those investments regardless of where the funds may be available to make the investment.
2. The Budget Committee used the priority system to recommend the first seven projects. What were these priorities? Well, our priorities are what is in the Current Budget and what is in our 20 Year Capital Plan (we did not know where the money was coming from, nor did we know if the money would be available or not, but listing the projects with the intent of reaching a goal.) These projects were our priorities due to being identified and being noted in short or long term plans.

My opinion is we should go forward with the same analysis. Once the priorities have been identified, we once again ask these questions.

1. Do we have funds for these projects?
2. Do these projects qualify for the Rescue Funds?

Our **Master Resolution 08-21-01** allows us to review and consider “Investment Worthy Projects” not necessary within our Primary Government’s priorities, but projects that would return future revenues.

These projects noted limited investments as a partner. This concept was pitched in April and May of 2015, which became Fund 171 CIF that we have used once or twice on a limited basis due to limited funds. Articles regarding this discussion can be found on the county website under County Executive-Published Articles and Speeches-2015 Community Investment Funds.

As the county meets their Primary Government Priorities and evaluates futures priorities, Work Sessions may be the avenue used to rank our priorities.