

**MINUTES
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

Present: Majority Leader Gene Nocera; Minority Leader Phil Pessina; Pamela Steele; Cynthia Clegg; Rev. Moses Harvill; Rev. Robyn Anderson; Diana Doyle; Kevin Elak; Christina Heckart; Bobbye Knoll Peterson; Brig Smith

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:09.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Phil Pessina made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2022 special meeting and Cynthia Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Presentation by Applicants

i. GN International and DeMarco Realty & Associates

GN International and DeMarco Realty & Associates gave a presentation on potentially purchasing the property at 1270 Newfield Street in Middletown. The property has 34 acres with two existing buildings. GN International and DeMarco Realty & Associates plan to create a co-working space for industrial companies, maintain the company already on premises, and add a third building that will add a daycare, kayaking and paddle boarding launch pad, and 110 parking spaces.

ii. Water & Sewer – Bartholomew Water Booster Pump Station

Water & Sewer gave a presentation on potentially constructing a pump station on Bartholomew Road to take the place of the Coe Avenue pump station, which will meet the needs of 1300 residents.

iii. Water & Sewer – Red Road Sewage Booster Pump Station

Water & Sewer gave a presentation on potentially demolishing the current pump station and constructing a new pump station that will be able to sustain the current population and any future growth in the Red Road area.

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iv. Middlesex Coalition for Children

Middlesex Coalition for Children gave a presentation on potentially bringing together key stakeholders to serve on a task force, which will support the community in recovery and healing of pandemic-related stress, trauma, depression, and anxiety.

v. Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater

Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater gave a presentation on potentially starting a Director of Teen Programs position at Oddfellows Playhouse. During the pandemic, middle and high school students have been significantly impacted and arts-based programs have positively affected many teens. Oddfellows is requesting funding to help support a qualified Director of Teen Programs.

5. Old Business

A. RFQ for Consultant

Gene Nocera explained that the working group decided to defer to the executive branch to conduct the screening of the 10 applicants for the RFQ consultant. The executive branch would then bring back three recommendations, which the Task Force will review.

B. Report of Current Expenses and Balances

Brig Smith reported that \$15.2 million has been appropriated, which leaves \$5.7 million. We will also need to set aside money for important city projects and the consultant.

C. Report from Water and Sewer

There was no report from Water and Sewer.

6. Other

7. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn made by Gene Nocera and seconded by Phil Pessina. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended.