

## March 27th 2022 Marina Event

Approximately 20 hearty souls met at the Pavilion at the Marina Sunday afternoon for a very informative presentation by Ellen Smith, Oak Ridge City Councilman, and Catherine Denenberg, Anderson County Commissioner. The topic was the use of the federal funds that have come to local governments due to Covid.

The two sources of funds are the Cares Act and the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). Both provided greatly needed assistance to local government. The Cares Act was funded through the State, but the ARPA funds came directly to the local areas. Catherine provided a letter from

Robert Holbrook, Anderson County Finance Director, which gave a good analysis of the moneys that have come to the County and how they have been allocated so far. There is more that has not been allocated and Mr. Holbrook estimated that the final decisions about allocation should be completed within the next two months.

Ellen explained the various requirements for spending the monies that have come to the City. Fortunately, the ARPA funds can be used for basic infrastructure repairs, of which Oak Ridge has a great many needs. It appears that additional funds will be available and can also be applied to the virtually endless need to replace pipes, etc. for our aging water and sewer system.

Ellen pointed out that a great deal of money was sent directly to residents through the stimulus payments, which helped the local businesses and, therefore, the tax base.

None of the decisions made thus far deal with the substantial funds that will come from more recently passed infrastructure bill. The procedures for the money have not been set out yet.

### ROBERT HOLBROOK

We received the TNCARES CRF Grant totaling \$1,147,230. Of that we have spent approximately \$243,908. See attached spreadsheet for the projects. We were able to use EMS and Sheriff salaries to obtain the rest of the grant, \$903,322 and those funds rolled into fund balance.

General Fund and EMS received a DOJ/BJNCESF Grant in the amount of \$58,008 used for public health.

The Senior Center received a \$20,200 COVID thru ETHRA and spent \$19,193 supplies for public health.

EMS received a small grant from CARES in the amount of \$9,955 for UV Equipment.

The Election office spent \$125,815 from a CARES grant for the Presidential Election for supplies, support staff, ballots, etc.

Currently we have the ARPA Grant that will eventually total \$14,952,074. Of that money we have purchased a body scanner for the Sheriffs Department and committed

\$92,000 for a county water and sewer master plan.

We have held 2 workshops to address projects for the County, but still have not completed a spending plan. That should happen in the next 2 months.

Catherine, there has been several small COVID grants that other departments in the County have applied for and received. Our 4 Libraries have all received small grants, some in the current year. Most of them are using these funds for technology upgrades.

None of this list includes the Board of Education. They would have to give you a separate list as their funding for COVID has been extensive and we in the Finance Department are not as involved.

Robert J. Holbrook

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Each image is of the members of the ACDWC attending a meeting at the Oak Ridge Marina on March 27, 2022