



LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE
August 27, 2021

COMMISSION AND COUNCIL PRESIDENTS JOINTLY ANNOUNCE “LISTENING SESSIONS” FOR BOTH BODIES TO HEAR PROPOSALS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON ARP FUNDS

La Porte County Commission President Rich Mrozinski and Council President Randy Novak today announced the first “listening session” where Commission members and Council members will entertain short presentations from county department heads, elected officials and community members on proposed uses for the county’s \$21.3 million share of American Rescue Plans will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 in the complex meeting rooms.

Said Mrozinski, “The Association of Indiana Counties has given us guidance that says the Commissioners are to come up with the spending plan and then take that to the Council where decisions are then made on what to appropriate from that plan. Randy and I want this to be as collaborative as possible and include as many viewpoints as possible.”

Novak concurred saying, “These new federal resources can be game-changers for us. As a county, we’ve got a number of projects that need to be funded from ARP funds that are real priorities but we also want to hear from community members on projects they feel are important as well. Rich and I believe that hearing from department heads and elected officials along with leaders of community groups with proposals will be beneficial. It doesn’t hurt to listen and see what’s out there, but no commitments can be made at these sessions. These are for listening.”

Commission President Mrozinski said he’s been impressed with what some counties have done around the country including “expanding high speed internet to rural parts of counties, using funds for crime reduction and health/safety issues.” Novak added that it appears that with nearly \$9 million estimated in lost revenues for La Porte County due to Covid, that “ARP funds used to replace lost revenue can be used for any lawful purpose. We’ve got some key needs at the county including the new EMS and Highway building in Rolling Prairie and some water and sewer projects that will spur economic development and job creation that we need to look at as well. But I’m open and willing to listen and I believe my colleagues on the council and Rich’s colleagues on the commission will find these listening sessions helpful.”

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86142313032?pwd=cENCYUtmUCtTRDVxYW05NIZjQ2JQUt09>

Meeting ID: 861 4231 3032

Passcode: 813965

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