

# FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE STUDY SESSION

## RE: American Rescue Act Funding

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, June 29, 2021 – \*6:00 P.M. \*PLEASE NOTE TIME

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Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois

### Agenda Items

### Page #

**I. Call to Order**

**II. \*Roll Call**

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**IV. Public Participation**

**V. Communications**

A. Additional community suggestions

1-4

**VI. Presentations/Discussion**

A. Brad Uken, Manager and Mike Briggs, Co-Chair of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Broadband Committee – Champaign County Farm Bureau

B. Lilly Walton, Executive Director and Stephanie Burnett, MTW & Client Outreach – Housing Authority of Champaign County

C. Michael Smeltzer, Board Member – UC2B

D. Service Providers:

1. Art Svymbersky, Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs and Deb Piscola, Sr. Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs – Comcast

2. Mike Elam, VP Community Affairs & Market Development – i3 Broadband

3. Michael O'Linc, President of Infrastructure – Pavlov Media

4. Peter Folk, CEO – Volo Broadband

**VII. Adjournment**

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*All meetings are at Brookens Administrative Center – 1776 E Washington Street in Urbana – unless otherwise noted. To enter Brookens after 4:30 p.m., enter at the north (rear) entrance located off Lierman Avenue. Champaign County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities. Please contact Administrative Services, 217-384-3776, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.*

# BORICH LEGAL, INC.

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June 8, 2021

Mr. Chris Stohr  
County Board District 10  
Via E-MAIL

Re: Small Business Pandemic Assistance

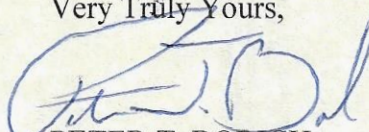
Dear Mr. Stohr:

It is my understanding that Champaign County has received funds or is eligible for funds to assist small businesses deleteriously affect by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the owner of a business which has suffered as a result of the pandemic, I am writing you as to the possibility of assistance to my law firm through any distribution of said funds.

Thank you for your attention to this communication.

Very Truly Yours,



PETER T. BORICH

PTB;st

Champaign County Board Members,

I write you today to speak about the outstanding volunteer firefighters we have in Champaign County. These volunteers have worked tirelessly through this historic pandemic. Many putting themselves at risk of being affected by corona virus while rendering aid to someone in need. I don't believe the residents of Champaign County realize how fortunate we are to have some of the best Ems and fire protection coverage in the nation.

These volunteers drop everything they are doing, be it a holiday dinner, a child's birthday, or even in the middle of the night during a good sleep to head out when they are called to help someone in need.

My name is John Bell, I have been a volunteer firefighter for the Eastern Prairie Fire Protection district in Champaign County for over 15 years. I currently a Captain with Eastern Prairie and I am proud to serving the people of Champaign County when called to do so.

I am writing you today to ask the board as a whole to consider using some of the monies from the American Rescue Plan Act to give some support to the Champaign County Volunteer Firefighters. Many who have been out of work during the pandemic and still responded for calls of help from our residents. I know I am not alone when I say this would be very honorable of you all to show this kind of support for our local volunteers. I could also see this decision being considered something other Counties would get behind and follow suit.

Thank you so much for your time as I know it is very valuable.

John Bell

[johnbell70@msn.com](mailto:johnbell70@msn.com)

217-766-1556

My name is Terry Gattis and I live in Savoy, Illinois. I moved to the area just over a year ago and I am a retired Law Enforcement Officer of 27 years. As it relates to the use of the ARPA, I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with a number of the fine personnel of the Champaign County Sheriff's Office and it would appear having speaking to them, they are just barely staffed to simply respond to the basic calls for service within their jurisdiction. God forbid a situation happen like what just occurred last month when Officer Chris Oberheim was murdered, it could potentially cripple law enforcement services both within the county and the additional areas patrol services are provided. I would suggest funds be allocated to increase staffing not only for patrol services but for crime prevention initiatives. As we are all aware, the number of shootings in the Champaign / Urbana areas have continued to increase and having creative initiatives and the personnel to back them could only be of benefit. Additionally, based on information available, the downtown jail facility is consistently costing the County unnecessary money. The facility is outdated and there are significant safety concerns both for the Corrections Officers and the inmates. This facility should be considered to be closed and services combined at the other facility until a better facility could be built, which would then continue to put the Sheriff's Office and Champaign County ahead of others with a state of the art facility.

Hello!

I have been talking to my neighbors in Garden Hills and collecting their signatures and the reasons they want street lighting. With the recent and continuous gunshots and shootings as well as the cars racing through the neighborhood after dark, it would be awesome if you would consider lighting, especially along Paula drive, as part of the ARP planning. Paula has bus stops (ie signs without benches or shelters) down its length, and it feels unsafe to cross the street to stand at unlit stops. Also, many residents have added Ring Doorbells for security, but the cameras are only as good as the lighting.

Please consider streetlights in Garden Hills for part of the ARP funding.

Thank you,  
Creel Unbelove'd  
1729 Anita Drive  
Champaign, IL 61821