

**MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION**

August 3, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on August 3, 2021 at 1:59 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Polly Glynn, Chair
Jerry Reinartz
Mike Ankeny
Jeff Baldus
John Mueller
Trish Harren, County Administrator

The Board received an update on the current status of the Covid pandemic from Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson and Emergency Manager Amy Lammey. The Center for Disease Control has developed a tracker of where cases are increasing and has assigned levels for the transmission rates. The levels are Blue (Low), Yellow (Moderate), Orange (Substantial) and Red (High). Mower County is currently “yellow” with a moderate rate of Covid-19 transmissions. Many of the surrounding counties are “red”. The County will continue to monitor the transmission rate Covid-19 status in the community.

County Administrator Trish Harren provided a Strategic Planning Recap. The goal is to have a draft plan in September regarding how the County intends to allocate the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. A discussion followed to determine the Board’s priorities for the allocation of the funds from the options discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting. The County has until the end of 2023 to commit to the allocation of the ARPA funds and until the end of 2026 to spend the funds. The Board would like to include in the draft plan allocation of funds for Broadband; out-of-home placements / mental health concerns; business relief especially for the tourism and hospitality industries; technology to bring the County systems up-to-date so employees can work remotely if needed and the public can access services; and staffing as accommodated by the ARPA guidelines such as attorneys to reduce the backlog caused by the pandemic.

The work session concluded at 3:24 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:
By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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