

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP

PO Box 176

Deerfield, MI 49238-0176

3-14-2022

Lenawee County Board of Commissioners
113 W. Front Street
Adrian, Michigan, 49221

RE: ARPA funding priorities

Dear Commissioners:

I have been directed to send this letter on the behalf of the Deerfield Township Board.

We are writing to communicate our displeasure with the commission's intention to deny the Lenawee County Road Commission's request for ARPA funds to offset their revenue losses due to COVID.

It is our understanding that the Commission feels it is unlawful to direct ARPA funds toward road funding. To that end, we contacted our municipal attorney Mike Homier at *Foster-Swift*. Mr. Homier made it clear that **the updated rules for ARPA funds explicitly list road funding as a legitimate use of these funds.**

This is also consistent with guidance from the *Michigan Township Association*.

Furthermore, **Cass County MI recently unanimously approved the use of ARPA funding** for their road commission. (See screenshot below.)

Not only has the Road Commission suffered revenue losses due to the pandemic, we are also concerned that recent legislation eliminating the fuel tax for six months that is now working its way through the state legislature will only add additional harm to the Commission's funding.

Let us be clear: **Deerfield Township strongly supports the Lenawee County Road Commission's request for ARPA funding to offset their direct Covid costs.**

If the County is receiving legal counsel that contradicts the advice we have received from our sources, **we strongly recommend that the Commission pursue additional legal analysis before making any further decisions about the distribution of ARPA funds.**

Finally, we are still struggling as a County to recover from the economic and social harm from the pandemic. Now we are dealing as a nation with rampant inflation, \$4/gallon gasoline and risks of global conflict due to Russia's actions against Ukraine.

Let us be emphatic: **Deerfield Township does not support directing any additional funding toward the Phoenix Project.** Continuing to direct relief funds toward a project that can only be seen as a luxury is poor stewardship of County resources in the face of the difficult national and global climate we find ourselves in.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Cousino". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent initial "R".

Ron Cousino, Deerfield Township Supervisor
On the behalf of the Deerfield Township Board

R-39-22

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve resc

**RESOLUTION APPROVING ARPA FUNDING FOR CASS CO
COMMISSION REVENUE LOSS**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) wa
establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“CSLFRF”

WHEREAS, Cass County will receive a total of \$10,059,018.00 in funds un
Program; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners created the ad-hoc ARI
review options and provide recommendations for the use of said funds; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Road Commission has submitted an ARPA RFP
- Revenue Loss; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Road Commission calculated their COVID-19
losses to be \$4,548,123.00; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Road Commission has requested \$991,493.00 to c
that were delayed due to the lost revenue; and

WHEREAS, approving this request would fund direct investment in county ro
opportunity for a partnership to facilitate improvements in the Cass County Park

WHEREAS, the ARPA Committee evaluated the RFP and recommends authoriz
and transfer of \$991,493.00 in ARPA funding to the Cass County Road Commis

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of C
approve the ARPA RFP and authorize \$941,493.00 in expenditure of ARPA fu
County Road Commission.