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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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In this issue...

Page 2



CARES Act – Fund for
Adams Investment &
Recovery Application
Process Update

Page 3



Medivac Helicopter
County Fiscal Rating &
Refinance Savings
News

Thank You Vickie Corbett
The End

Yes,
We're
Open!

Yes—All County Offices are Open

All Adams County offices are open to the public. The only exceptions are the Prison and the 2nd floor of the Department of Emergency Services Building housing 911 are closed to the public. Throughout the pandemic, all county offices continued to provide service in person, by email or telephone. Visitors are encouraged to consider remote service when possible to reduce exposure. Upon building entry, both staff and visitors must have their temperature scanned and be wearing a mask. The number of clients allowed in an office at one time is limited. At this time those client limitations have not proven to be an issue for visitors. The Adams County Office of Veterans Affairs is taking walk-ins again; but also encourages appointments if possible. Appointments for Veterans Affairs can be made by calling Stan Clark or Todd Gardner at 717-337-9835



CARES Act

The Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD) continues to work with the Adams County Board of Commissioners in developing the program guidelines to distribute \$9.3 million in non-repayable grants to eligible community partners. This funding source will be known locally as the *Fund for Adams Investment and Recovery (FAIR)*. A FAIR Community Evaluation Team comprised of local community professionals will be the entity reviewing applications after the applications are vetted for appropriateness by ACOPD. The money was received by Adams County July 15. This funding is being made available by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The \$2 trillion economic relief package aims to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides economic assistance for local governments and American workers, families, and small businesses. The final guidelines are still a work in progress, but below is some information on the Application and Eligible Expenses:

FAIR Application Process

- ◇ Entities that are eligible to apply for FAIR include; small businesses with less than 100 employees, tourism related businesses regardless of the number of employees, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment providers, non-profit organizations as defined by Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and municipal governments.
- ◇ An online application has been developed and will be available through the Adams County website when the grant goes live - which is now anticipated to be mid-August for the 1st round applications.
- ◇ As part of this process, a Community Evaluation Team has been appointed to review the applications and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for approval. This team is made up of members of the local community that represent the various entities that are eligible for this program; i.e. small business, tourism, municipal government, healthcare and non-profit organizations.
- ◇ ACOPD will reach out independently to the county's municipal partners with an application specific to municipalities for planning and emergency response assistance.
- ◇ Examples of eligible expenditures for the various applicants are provided on the County website. Supporting documentation will be required for all applications and shall be submitted at the time of application. Any questions regarding eligible expenditures should be directed to the Adams County Office of Planning and Development for clarification.
- ◇ All recipients of this funding will be required to enter into sub-recipient agreement with the County to be provided as part of the application packet.

FAIR Eligible Expenditures

Eligible expenditures include only those costs necessary to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. For municipal governments these expenditures cannot include costs accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. All costs must be incurred during the period from March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies/service
- Retrofitting facilities to comply with public safety policies necessary to mitigate the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Working capital costs for businesses such as utility and rent
 - Expenses for COVID-19 testing
 - Expenses to facilitate remote work specific to the COVID-19 public health emergency
 - Expenses for care for homeless populations to mitigate COVID-19 effects
 - Any other expenditures as permitted by applicable guidelines.

Medivac Helicopter

At Wednesday's Commissioner's Meeting the Board approved a 3-year lease agreement with Air Methods Corporation to build a helipad, hangar, mechanics shed, fuel pad, tank and ramp at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services Building. Air Methods will be covering all costs associated with the improvements to the facility. The company will also lease some rooms in the building for administration and flight readiness. Air Methods will be reimbursing the county \$34,900 annually for the lease. Currently helicopters must come from York, Hagerstown or Hershey. The Board was enthusiastic to support and work out the logistics of this opportunity. To have this service in the center of Adams County for expeditious response, in caring for our residents, is a great addition to our emergency response capabilities and the safety and welfare of Adams County residents.

County Fiscal Rating & Refinance Savings News

At Wednesday's Commissioners Meeting, Financial Consultant Jay Wenger from Susquehanna Group reviewed Adams County's recent fiscal rating review and bond refinancing. Adams County has retained Moody's Aa2 superior fiscal rating with a stable outlook. The Rating Outlook stated that "The stable outlook reflects the County's strong financial position, which we expect to be maintained over the medium term given management's conservative budgeting process." Wenger explained that by retaining the Aa2 rating, puts Adams County in a fiscally superior group of counties. The only way to get a better rating is to hold more money in reserve than would be prudent, or to be located in an very affluent community outside a major urban area.

Providing some additionally good fiscal news, Wenger explained that a recent refinancing of debt with an allowance for capital improvements, is going to save Adams County approximately \$2.1M over the previous rate in the next 24 months. We received an unprecedented interest rate of 1.99%. Considering anticipated revenue shortfalls due to COVID, this is a welcome development.

Thank You Vickie Corbett

Prior to Wednesday's Commissioners Meeting, the Board had the pleasure of presenting a proclamation to Vickie Corbett declaring Wednesday July 29, *Vickie Corbett Day* in Adams County. The ceremony was held in front of the Historic Courthouse. Vickie's contributions to this community have been consistent and significant. Her 24 years working for and leading the United Way of Adams County is just one of her many contributions to our community. Last year we had the pleasure of working with Vickie directly when she stepped up as a member of the County Election Board when the current commissioners were up for re-election. Most of us would agree that Vickie retiring from the United Way will not diminish her community spirit and commitment. We hope that Vickie has more time to spend on her special interests and wish her well! Thank you, Vickie!



The **End**

I heard this morning that July 2020 will break the record for the hottest July. My brown grass crunches as I walk across it, and I have not had my zero-turn mower in action for probably five or six weeks. This is ironic since my kids are always ribbing me about me always saying the grass needs mowed. My yard looks like a brown wasteland. It would be so good to see green again! The flower box/barrel watering is required now twice a day and for the first time ever I am watering about 20 rose bushes to keep them from drying up and losing them. Hopefully we get some of the rain that is forecast in the next few days.

Although many events and activities are postponed or canceled, it does provide an incentive to take advantage of the many outdoor opportunities that we have in Adams County. While you drive the 36-mile-long Scenic Valley Tour around Adams County, stop by a local orchard that has pick your own fruit and create your own experience. A tree ripened peach, a fresh ear of sweet corn, cantaloupe and watermelon are the best – and they are all available at produce stands around Adams County. Wipe the dust off your bike, blow up the tires and take a ride around Gettysburg National Military Park. The Park is also a great place to walk.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!