Local News

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Honoring the U.S. Capitol Police - Lower Flags to Half Staff

JANUARY 10TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Honoring the U.S. Capitol Police - Lower Flags to Half Staff

HONORING UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

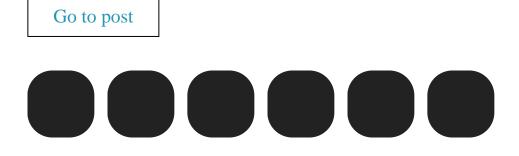
As a sign of respect for the service and sacrifice of United States Capitol Police Officers Brian D. Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, and all Capitol Police Officers and law enforcement across this great Nation, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, January 13, 2021. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

President Donald Trump

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https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vf1n/Honoring-the-US-Capitol-Police--Lower-Flags-to-Half-Staff



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Local Businesses Continue to Question CARES Act Funding

JANUARY 07TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Local Businesses Continue to Question CARES Act Funding

Bloomfield, MO - The Stoddard County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled Monday morning meeting on December 28, 2020 at 9 a.m.. Three business owners were on hand to ask the Commissioners about the process used to determine who received COVID-19 CARES Act money and why they had not received any funding. First to speak was Waylon Owens, owner of Bernie Fitness Center. He told the Commission that he had submitted his application in mid-November and was told first his application may have been missing, later found, and now his application is missing a signature.

"We turned in our application in the middle of November. That's the last I heard of it," Owens said. "I called Mr. Killian on Nov. 30 at 12:17 p.m. I did talk to Mr. Killian that day, and he said he would call me back. We did not hear back from him. I didn't hear anything else. I started seeing who all was receiving funds in the newspaper and the huge amounts some businesses were receiving."

"I called Miss Jarrell. That was the week before Christmas," Owens said. "Miss Jarrell, after a few days, tried to get to the bottom of it and told me that my application was nowhere to be found. She could not find my application. That went on for about a week or so until this past Friday when I was told my application was missing a signature. So I'm here to see what we can do about getting some of my money back."

Presiding Commissioner Danny Talkington said the paperwork was not lost and the commissioners received it; however the application was missing a signature and considered it an invalid request.

Owens said, "I understand that and I understand we may have missed the signature. I mean, I understand that it is entirely possible. We turned in our application in mid-November - how did people that turned in their application after us, how did they get paid? And if we did miss a signature, how is it that we weren't notified that we missed a signature?"

Frank Killian, EMA Director at the time, was paid \$20 per hour to make sure all applications had the proper signatures and receipts on each application that was submitted prior to sending them over to the Commissioners.

"So, in my thinking, even if I was missing a signature, we could have started the process of remedying it that day," Owens said. "That was still before the deadline and before some people even submitted their applications, and they still got paid. So I guess at this point, I'm just here to air a grievance because I understand there's no more money, but if there is any more money, I think it's fair to say that I feel like I should be at the top of the list."

Chris Huggins, co-owner of Main Street Restaurant in Bernie, also spoke.

"We got everything filled out like we should, made a few phone calls and were able to get it here on time before the deadline," Huggins said. "But when we hear that other businesses that filled their paperwork out after the deadline, I think, got paid, and then that multiple businesses had received two checks that exceeded our amount that we requested, and what we requested wasn't even all that we could have requested. ... And so I'm just here to see what's going on. What's the process here?"

Huggins learned during the meeting when Dee Loflin, ShowMe Times, stated that during the Thursday, December 31st meeting scheduled for 9 a.m., but did not start until 1 p.m., he was approved for partial funding in the amount of \$13,624.85. No one had called him to let him know. This seems to have been the trend for businesses when receive funds. They would either learn from the newspaper or just receive a check in the mail. (What if that check got lost? Dexter Queen had to have a check issued again because they did not receive it in the mail).

Kristie Whitehead, co-owner of Whitehead Electric, asked about her second request. She is grateful for the amount she has already received, but when others were getting mortgage and other funding she filled out another application. She has learned since that time that other businesses were not required to fill out a second application, but just submit proof of payment for mortgage, etc.

"Why were some businesses told they had to fill out a whole new application, while others could just submit supporting documentation? Our application now gets buried in the pile and not funded while others got two, three, and even four checks."

"Also are you going to go back and ask those six businesses for the \$23,000 in payroll that you all paid out and have told businesses that you were not going to pay for payroll."

Dee Loflin, ShowMe Times, asked how that would be handled; a personal phone call or via USPS mail? Talkington said he would personally call businesses as well as send a letter by certified mail.

Shane Taylor, an owner of Farm First Crop Insurance LLC in Essex, voiced concerns about the rule changing after the deadline. Certain items became ineligible for reimbursement. (A full story on the exclusions is on the ShowMe Times under News). Click HERE to read!

"Who makes the rules?" Taylor asked. "For instance, the paperwork I saw, there's no mortgage payments. None of that was allowed. Later that changed, but we were not notified. Then I saw the insurance companies were paid, and I saw you came back and said insurance companies should not be paid. I mean, where does all this come from?"

Talkington said the initial guidelines came from the federal government. The Commissioners received the CARES Act money on May 6, 2020, but did not begin approving funding until September 2020. In September additional information was issued by the federal government.

"The grants that were being made to municipalities, police departments and ambulance districts, we had very specific guidelines, but the businesses we had one short sentence," Talkington said. "We finally started getting some guidelines that came out in September and then again in October with revisions as to what could be included. That's why those things changed."

The businesses fought for the mortgage as defined by the federal government in their guidelines that were issued. Some businesses were aware, but others were not. This also goes to the four months of reimbursement vs the eight or nine months of reimbursement funding that other businesses were allowed to ask for and were funded.

On December 14, 2020 the Commission approved a new exclusion list to businesses as they saw monies were running out. Click HERE to read more!

On Thursday in a special meeting they approved four more businesses for partial funding.

The following businesses received CARES Act funds:

+ Lucas Florist, \$3,800.42 They had asked for \$17,828.20. Under the new exclusions were eligible for \$7,473.79 They were previously funded \$3,673.37

+ Tips and Toes, \$598.92. Requested a total of \$2,348.92

+ Bootheel Counseling Services \$8,689.97 Were pre-approved for \$18,855.00; however only turned in receipts for \$8,689.97

+ Main Street Restaurant, \$13,624.85 Requested a total of \$22,703.26

+ Stoddard County Senior Citizens Agency, \$5,118.87 Requested a total of \$19,438.21 If any monies are returned in the form of payroll or any monies comes down the pipe from Congress, the Senior Citizens Agency (The Lunch Box) would be first in line to receive additional funding. They are eligible for a total of \$13,704.67.

Total Checks: \$31,833.03

The Dexter Police Department had originally requested and was approved for funding in the amount of \$23,227.16; however turned in receipts for \$20,244.13. That check was issued on December 28, 2020.

The city of Essex was issued a check in the amount of \$107.041.00; however that was an overpayment of \$10,000. The check has been cancelled and a new check was issued in the amount of \$97,041.00.

Bootheel Regional Planning Committee was approved in an October 2020 meeting for a new HVAC system in the amount of \$76,500.00. Check issued December 28, 2020.

Stoddard County Health Department was issued a check in the amount of \$236,849.88. Funding was for overtime (\$180,000), phone system (\$7,000), copy/fax machine (\$5,000) and for masks for the public and facial gators (two for each student in the county for free) (\$41,000). These amounts were given by Ben Godwin, Stoddard County Health Dept. and are rounded figures.

The Stoddard County Ambulance District was approved on October 13, 2020 to purchase Lucus CPR devices for \$146,412.10; four 2011 ventilators for \$67,410.88, and ten digital handheld pulse ox machines for \$5,700.00 for a total of \$219,522.98. Also on the same date SCAD was approved for an additional \$193,657.12. On October 19, 2020 Commissioner Steve Jordan made a motion to approve the reimbursement for the \$193,657.12 for SCAD. A check was issued on the same day.

Moving forward to late December 2020. Chuck Kasting, SCAD Director, received a call from Commissioner Talkington that at this time there was zero funds left though Kasting had turned in receipts in early December for the pre-approved \$219,522.98 amount. SCAD will not be funded through the CARES Act for that amount. It will not have to come out of the SCAD budget as the products have already been purchased and in use on the ambulances.

In other business, not related to the CARES Act, James Hensley spoke to the commissioners about the Johnsongrass Tax on the Personal Property Tax form. "Could it be discontinued?"

"The way that it was started is there had to be a revenue statute, which 100 people in the county had to request be done, and then it goes to the Secretary of Agriculture, who then appoints a board," Talkington stated. "I didn't see any provision for how to get rid of it at this point. I've only answered part of your question as to how it got started, but I don't know how to get it to stop."

Talkington said he would need to contact the Secretary of Agriculture office to figure out how the tax could be taken off.

Hensley also addressed his concerns about the deer carcasses along the sides of the roads along with beer cans and bottles.

"Coming out here this morning from my driveway to town, there were five dead deer lying on the road," Hensley said. "We as a society drive down the road (and say) 'well look, there's a dead deer.' We just keep going. Nothing's thought about it. ... MoDOT is always broke. They're not going to pick them up. And I'm not gonna pick them up, I don't think. ... It's an eyesore and we as a community should be ashamed of ourselves for letting that happen."

Hensley asked the commissioners if they could draft a letter telling MoDOT people are concerned about it and those animals need to be picked up. Talkington said the commissioners could do that.

Loflin also asked about the EMA Director position again. Frank Kilian resigned his position effective December 31, 2020. Last week this reporter had asked for a job description and a public notice that this position would be open to the public to apply. Talkington said again that he would get that information to the newspapers next week. "This is a part-time job and if anyone wants to apply they can send their resumes to P.O. Box 110, Bloomfield, MO 63825."

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Continued Questions Regarding CARES Act Funding in Stoddard County

DECEMBER 27TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Continued Questions Regarding CARES Act Funding in Stoddard County

Bloomfield, MO - Several local business owners and representatives showed up at the Stoddard County Commissioners' meeting on Monday, December 21st to discuss the CARES Act funds as none of the people who attended had received a phone call from Danny Talkington, Presiding Commissioner who did say in the December 14th meeting he would personally contact businesses who had not been funded to let them know the amounts they would be getting since there was only about \$43,000 left in the account.

The state of Missouri gave Stoddard County \$3,405,212 of CARES Act money to distribute to small businesses and government and community entities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jim Thrower, manager of Dexter Queen, and owner Lori Hawkins attended the meeting. Thrower felt the commissioners were not proactive reaching out to small businesses. There was no press release and very little information in the paper.

"I'm talking about how some businesses were allowed to turn in payroll and for mortgages when we were told we couldn't turn in payroll or full mortgages," Thrower said. "And then when the extension came in a couple of weeks ago, nobody notified us except for (Dexter Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alisha Trammell), but it's your job to let the public know these things. Why have you guys not notified the public, and why did some businesses get multiple checks when some got none. Where were your priorities?"

On December 14th, Dee Loflin, of the ShowMe Times, asked if businesses were funded and approved for payroll. Presiding Commissioner, Danny Talkington, stated "no" they were not. Commissioner, Steve Jordan, also said they were not. Talkington said last week that originally CARES Act money was not allowed to be used for payroll because of the Paycheck Protection Program handled that. Once the PPP ended, the government said in September that CARES Act funds could be used for payroll reimbursement. "We said we are not going to (do that)," Now a week later is has been confirmed that more than \$23,000 of the CARES Act funds were paid out for payroll according to Talkington.

Commissioner Steve Jordan said the county should attempt to retrieve payroll that was mistakenly paid.

"I'm only one vote, but I'm in the opinion we need to go back and try to claw that back," Jordan said.

The question remains unanswered as to how this happened as there are three county commissioners who are reviewing the applications and the commissioners hired two people to also review and input the information into the State website for approval.

This reporter contacted Frank Killian, EMA Director until December 31st, for specific information on the procedure of how applications were reviewed and approved.

"As for the CARES money the role the Commissioners asked me to fulfill was the following,"

- Collect paperwork which included 4 parts, application which included W-9, invoices for reimbursement request, proof of purchase or payment and a summary sheet with totals as well as grand total requested. (I did not total anything so no one could say I didn't total something correctly)

- Ensure application was signed in all the correct locations

- Fill out submission sheet for Commissioners with the grand total along, list of items being requested and my signature which indicated the folder had a signed application, invoices a and proof is purchases. Early on, almost every packet turned in did not have all the information required by the Commissioners and would take several emails or visits with each business/entity to get corrected to a point of being able to be submitted. Alisha Trammel with Chamber of Commerce graciously volunteered her time to help because each folder would take days. Without Alisha's help getting all the folders in order would have been impossible.

- Submit folder to Commissioners

- Commissioners would return folders to me if certain invoices or bills were not in folder, if Commissioners denied any portion or had any questions about anything in the folder. (I did not approve or deny anything financial, I just ensured all signatures were in place, invoices and cancelled checks or credit statements were in folders.)

- I would contact the business or entity concerning questions or rejection by Commissioners and what possible plan of action they might have which included going and talking with Commissioner's.

- If folder was approved by Commissioners it was passed along to clerk's office so after turning folders in if folders were not returned to me for corrections or rejections I assumed folders were passed along to clerk's office.

Mr. Killian stated that when he would receive a folder it was the following Monday when he would return it to the Commissioners at their regular weekly meeting.

Associated Commissioner Carol Jarrell spoke to why businesses such as Econo Lodge hadn't received any money (application was submitted on November 12th same day as another hotel who received 100% funding) and others who made requests afterward did receive funds.

"I don't know how they got out of whack coming down the line to us. I have no idea," Jarrell said. "Nov. 4 (the day French Market requested funds) should have been (at the) top, and then Nov. 12th (Econo Lodge) should have been right there with the other motels. ... I do not know what happened. And I'm sorry for that. I should have been more observant."

Jarrell said she "failed, big time." "And I know saying I'm sorry and all that's not going to help the French Market, not going to help anybody, but I will take full responsibility for my (part)."

Dee Loflin, owner of the ShowMe Times, voiced concerns about how the payment of these funds was documented. Loflin suggested these items should be included in the minutes to the weekly meetings. To date the reporters have had to ask the County Clerk's office for a list of businesses with the amounts or ask the County Collector's office for a print-out.

"So when you all make these decisions on who gets the money from the CARES Act funding, you all should be making a motion," Loflin said, "(saying) we will fund 'x' businesses for 'x' number of dollars. That should be seconded and approved, but I'm not seeing that on any of the minutes that I've requested. All the minutes that I have received are basically an attendance record not full minutes."

Talkington explained that information was available through vouchers the commissioners signed to approve payments.

"But not in your minutes from your commission meetings?" Loflin said. "Why not because you've got to make that public? People aren't going to come up here and ask for the voucher information. People don't know to do that off the street so it should be in your minutes."

Talkington told Loflin she made a good point.

"That's where the transparency is not and the public views it that you are being secretive, and there's no reason to be secretive with the monies," Loflin said.

Talkington announced that \$526,431.94 remained in the county's CARES Act account, and that \$462,468.04 were allotted for public entities and businesses who received preapproval to purchase items the government deemed acceptable, leaving \$63,963.90 available to small businesses. However last week there was only about \$43,000 left according to Tallkington and on December 15th a transfer into the CARES Act fund in the amount of \$53,451.14 was made according to the County Collector's print-out. (The ShowMe Times was not able to obtain a print-out form the County Clerk's office. Another Sunshine Law Request Form was submitted on December 21st asking for just a COVID-19 CARES Act Journal Report).

Loflin also asked about the Lambert Engineering & Surveying funding. "This is a Scott County business and not a Stoddard County business. They were issued a check for \$10,293.40 on December 14th." Upon further discussion it was discovered that L&M Locksmith requested \$4,603.84 CARES Act funds, but received a check for \$14,897.24. The owner returned the check and was issued the proper amount. The remaining money was to go to L&M Enterprise, LLC, but was entered as Lambert Engineering & Surveying. Looking at the journal report print-out there was never a \$14,897.24 check written or voided. There are two checks written for \$10,293.40 and one for \$4,603.84. The matter was brought to the attention of Cecil Weeks and has hopefully been corrected.

According to Talkington as of December 14, 2020 there was \$526,431.94 balance in the CARES Act fund. Monies promised, but receipts have not been submitted to the commissioners are:

City of Essex \$107,041.00

Bootheel Regional Planning Committee \$76,500 for new HVAC System (I asked if this was a budgeted item or covered under the CARES Act and was told yes by Commissioner Talkington)

Stoddard County Health Dept \$236,849.88 (\$180,000 overtime, \$41,000 for masks including two gators for students at every county school as well as 1 gallon of hand sanitizer for each classroom, \$7,000 new phone system, \$5,000 printer/fax machine

Dexter Police Dept and Park & Rec \$23,222.16

Bootheel Counseling \$18,855.00

Totaling \$462,468.04

The commissioners voted 3-0 to approve guidelines to award funds to small businesses who have applied for CARES Act funds but had not received any money and would not receive their full requests because the county did not have enough funds remaining to pay requests in full.

Here are the "new" guidelines set by the Commissioners since monies have all been exhausted.....

• exclude any requests received after the Nov. 30 deadline; however one business was fully funded and application was submitted on December 3rd.

• exclude any requests from schools;

• exclude any requests from social organizations, private clubs and membership-based organizations;

• exclude insurance companies;

• exclude mortgage payments, interest payments, vehicle payments, insurance, rent and labor; and

• exclude any person or company who has previously received CARES Act funds.

Here is a list of businesses who received partial funding, including amount requested and amount funded. They are listed in the order they were received:

Cape Home Oxygen LLC (A+ Medical), (\$76,431.02), \$5,106.67;

French Market (\$10,917.99), \$2,458.27; Turned in application on November 4th per Mary Ruth Boone

Sadguru LLC (Econo Lodge), (\$103,943.02), \$29,621.52; Turned in application on November 12th per owner Mr. Patel

Law Office of Yewell G. Lawrence Jr., (\$24,687.77), \$2,889.85;

JSR Environmental Services LLC, (\$49,116.62), \$1,104.54;

Carla Moore Jewelry Sales, (\$3,600.05), \$2,081.05;

Wooldridge Construction, (\$12,380.59), \$2,272.91;

Peking Garden Dexter LLC, (\$9,925. 80), \$6,209.92;

Ryson Diesel Repair, (\$3,352.79), \$810.35;

Stefanie Hodges Beauty LLC, (\$8,215.22), \$827.79;

Walker Towing, (\$7,062.40), \$664.22;

Medler's Cleaning, (\$12,867.67), \$5,004.02;

Phelan Company, (\$4,316.38), \$1,329.42;

Lucas Florist (\$17,828.20), \$3,673.37, Lucas Florist was approved for \$7,473.79 but the county only had funds available for \$3,673.37.

The following companies requested funds by the November 30th deadline but money was not available to pay them.

Lucas Florist, \$3,800.42

Tips and Toes, \$2,348.92

Main Street Restaurant, \$22,703.26

Senior Citizens Agency Inc., \$19,438.21

ShowMe Times \$6,061.39

Stoddard County License Office, \$495.51

Sheila LeGrand (Sheila's Shoppe), \$1,679.73

Mulberry Manor, \$10,542.27

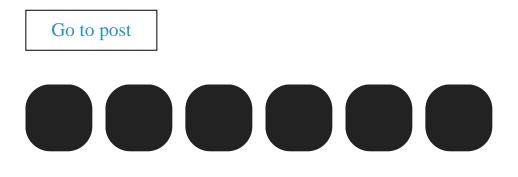
Taxes and More, \$8,665.09

Michele Owens Photography, \$1,816.07

Custom Crete Works LLC, \$97,975.88.

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Timeline of CARES Act Funding in Stoddard County

DECEMBER 21ST 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Timeline of CARES Act Funding in Stoddard County

Stoddard County, MO - The state of Missouri gave Stoddard County \$3,405,212 of CARES Act money to distribute to small businesses, government, and other entities. Money was deposited on May 6, 2020. This is the second article in a series of articles relating to the CARES Act funding for COVID-19.

The first check written was to Dr. Bobby Jibben on August 4, 2020 for April, May, June, and July for \$2,000. Jibben was named Stoddard County physician to oversee the COVID-19 Pandemic.

August 2020 Checks

- 8/4 Bobby Jibben \$2,000.00
- 8/31 Bank of Advance (Payroll Deductions for Jibben) \$61.60
- 8/31 Frank Killion \$369.40

September 2020 Checks

- 9/8 Advance R-4 School District \$53,675.00
- 9/8 Bell City R-2 School District \$25,377.76
- 9/8 Bernie R-13 School District \$101,697.99
- 9/8 Bloomfield R-14 School District \$44,428.38
- 9/8 Dexter R-11 School District \$76,270.67
- 9/8 Dexter R-11 School District 29,161.99
- 9/8 Puxico R-8 School District \$14,384.02
- 9/21 Bell City R-2 School District \$41,268.94
- 9/21 American Steakhouse \$23,521.94
- 9/28 Bloomfield R-14 School District \$67,130.47
- 9/28 Bootheel Regional Planning Committee (Non-Profit) \$1,017.11
- 9/28 Dexter Cinema, LLC \$10,608.43
- 9/28 Dexter R-11 School District \$142,385.00
- 9/28 Matt Thurmon, Shelter Insurance \$7,322.96
- 9/28 Richland R-1 School District \$24,691.75
- 9/28 Bobby Jibben (August/September) \$1,000.00

9/30 Bank of Advance (Payroll Deductions for Jibben) \$95.38

9/30 Frank Killian (Payroll) \$335.22

October 2020 Checks:

- 10/13 Southeast Health (Labs) \$359.18
- 10/19 Advance R-4 \$21,756.40
- 10/19 Bernie R-13 \$12,127.78
- 10/19 Bootheel Regional Planning Committee (Non-Profit) \$53.90
- 10/19 Carwile Glass Co. (Plexiglas Dividers) \$570.00
- 10/19 Puxico R-8 School District \$256,956.12
- 10/19 Stoddard County Ambulance District \$193,657.12
- 10/19 Stoddard County Sheriff's Department \$32,612.44
- 10/19 County Collector's Office for June & August \$10,093.12
- 10/26 Airways Cafe \$3,662.29
- 10/26 Allen Christian Buick, Inc (Monthly Expenses) \$69,359.23
- 10/26 City of Dexter \$42,786.28
- 10/26 Dexter Cinema, LLC (Expenses Mar-Sept) \$4,757.25
- 10/26 Rich Plus Paper Co, LLC \$5,180.14
- 10/26 City of Bloomfield (Temp Scan) \$3,840.00
- 10/26 Carla Moore Treasury (Generator Repair) \$1,189.95
- 10/30 Frank Killian \$335.22
- 10/30 Hannah Gregory \$299.31
- 10/30 Bank of Advance (Payroll Deductions for Killian \$ Gregory) \$145.93

November 2020 Checks:

- 11/3 Christian Memorials & Signs \$8,445.71
- 11/3 Dexter Family Eye Care \$13,982.45
- 11/3 Farmhand Supply \$3,419.87
- 11/3 Pizza Hut \$8,638.04
- 11/3 Puxico Skating Rink, LLC \$2,542.43
- 11/3 Richland R-1 School District \$47,934.03
- 11/5 Whitehead Electric, LLC (Vehicle, Phone, Utilities) \$3,172.93
- 11/10 BA Promotions \$16,155.60
- 11/10 Bella Bean Boutique \$5,188.21
- 11/10 Bloom Salon \$3,415.65
- 11/10 Dexter Cinema, LLC (Rent) \$12,701.06
- 11/10 Dexter Fire Department \$34,979.68
- 11/10 Dexter Music Center \$20,504.46
- 11/10 Dexter Queen, LLC \$23,374.29
- 11/10 Dhafers \$37,037.55
- 11/10 Fashion Exchange \$3,288.73
- 11/10 Hickory Log \$15,467.25
- 11/10 Jackson Florist & Gifts \$13,919.39
- 11/10 Liberty Township (Payroll) \$2,121.97
- 11/10 Little Hornets Daycare \$4,111.42
- 11/10 Miranda Jordan, LMT (Rent & Supplies) \$5,043.01
- 11/10 MJs Auto Sales \$11,450.81
- 11/10 Old Timers Antique Mall \$10,475.30

- 11/10 Salon 10 LLC \$4,238.56
- 11/10 The Gallery \$9,965.03
- 11/16 County Collector's Office (For Nov Election) \$\$1,860.00
- 11/16 SoutheastHEALTh of Stoddard County \$\$538.77
- 11/17 Bernie R-13 School District \$2,199.21
- 11/17 Brem Insurance, LLC \$14,216.73
- 11/17 Calla Lily's, LLC \$5,956.03
- 11/17 Chasing Serenity Womens Fitness \$\$6,387.85
- 11/17 City of Dexter \$27,377.29
- 11/17 Dexter Fire Department \$86,759.10
- 11/17 Dexter First Assembly of God Church \$15,958.36
- 11/17 Dexter Inn \$86,547.31
- 11/17 Dexter Pizza Company \$23,568.42
- 11/17 Dexter R-11 School District \$56,150.29
- 11/17 Dudley Church of God Church \$13,507.03
- 11/17 First Missouri Bank of SEMO (FMB Bank) \$4,439.32
- 11/17 K9 Biz \$2,800.95
- 11/17 N'Style Galleria \$4,464.29
- 11/17 Post At the Pink Zebra Rae's \$\$2,472.11
- 11/17 Puxico R-8 School District \$13,256.65
- 11/17 Puxico R-8 School District \$113,072.81
- 11/17 Quality Choice Hearing Aid Center \$6,089.06
- 11/17 Richland R-1 School District \$5,932.02

- 11/17 SEMO Land Design, Inc. \$20,399.70
- 11/17 Teel, Helen \$2,225.54
- 11/17 The Gathering \$91,452.99
- 11/17 The Perfect 10 \$557.94
- 11/17 Vivan, LLC \$58,001.82
- 11/17 Whitehead Electric, LLC \$11,392.14
- 11/23 Betty Lou Boutique \$6,624.66
- 11/23 Heavy Duty Trux, LTD \$6,106.60
- 11/23 Pennington Auto Tire and Body \$13,622.09
- 11/23 Puxico Skating Rink \$13,619.40
- 11/23 Stars and Stripes Museum \$\$3,888.84
- 11/24 Gregory, Hannah (Payroll) \$443.42
- 11/24 Killian, Frank (Payroll) \$401.30
- 11/24 Bank of Advance (Payroll Deductions) \$210.25

December 2020 Checks:

- 12/1/20 Advance R-4 School District \$41,397.95
- 12/1 Bunny Patch \$6,128.54
- 12/1 Christian memorials & Signs \$3,161.06
- 12/1 Gerena Baker, Mary Kay Sales \$935.69
- 12/3 Abners Pump Service \$2,519.45
- 12/3 Bloomfield R-14 School District \$37,032.52
- 12/3 Brown Auto Sales \$5,121.13
- 12/3 Corner Stop Cafe \$2,069.95

- 12/3 Dexter R-11 School District \$7,486.58
- 12/3 Dudley Church of God \$3,806.29
- 12/3 Gregory's Two East, LLC \$8,857.82
- 12/3 Heartland Food Management, LLC \$16,831.45
- 12/3 L&M Locksmith \$10,293.40
- 12/3 Hubbards Jewelry, LLC \$2,660.28
- 12/3 Robin Northern, Attorney \$21,835.09
- 12/3 Pennington Auto Tire & Body \$568.10
- 12/3 Puxico R-8 School District \$4,183.01
- 12/3 Richard Walker DBA MotorbikesRus \$5,180.16
- 12/3 Stoddard County Fair Board \$24,292.00
- 12/3 Stoddard County Sheltered Workshop \$18,081.92
- 12/4 Dexter Queen, LLC \$23,374.29 (Replacement Check for 11/10)
- 12/8 American Steakhouse \$46,741.19
- 12/8 Bell City R-2 Schools \$12,520.34
- 12/8 Bloomfield Fire Department \$99,923
- 12/8 Blue Mule Cafe \$44,703.74
- 12/8 City of Dexter, \$7,486.58
- 12/8 Dexter Cinema LLC, \$7,117.99
- 12/8 Donut Palace, \$15,448.35
- 12/8 Dudley Fire Department \$33,810.00
- 12/8 Paradise Lounge \$33,205.94
- 12/8 Richland R-1 Schools \$8,045.09

12/8 The Vendor Market \$2,843.53

12/8 Wethington Tire and Auto \$15,258.00

12/11 Bobby Jibben \$ (November & December Payroll) \$1,000.00

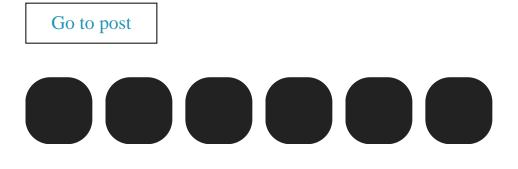
12/14 L&M Locksmith \$4,603.84

12/14 Lambert Engineering & Surveying \$10,293.40

Information received from the County Collector's office and not the County Clerk's office. If there are any discrepancies please contact Dee Loflin at 573.380.3318. If I do not answer please leave a message or text to same number. Thank you.

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 21ST 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/vf05/Timeline-of-CARES-Act-Funding-in-Stoddard-County



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Businesses Address Stoddard County Commission Concerning of Disbursement of Cares Act Funds

DECEMBER 16TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Businesses Address Stoddard County Commission Concerning of Disbursement of Cares Act Fur

The Stoddard County Commission met on Monday, December 14, 2020 in a regularly scheduled meeting in Bloomfield. On the agenda was Dee Loflin who wished to discuss Covid-19 CARES Act funding for businesses.

The state of Missouri provided Stoddard County \$3,405,212 of CARES Act money to distribute to small businesses and government entities.

The application deadline set by the Commission was November 30, 2020; however applications continued to come in during the first week of December. Since that time it was reported that the Commission had depleted the CARES Act monies and there was not enough left in the account to go to those businesses that applied prior to the deadline; however, some businesses were funded while others were not.

Dexter Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alisha Trammell stated 13 businesses submitted the appropriate paperwork by the November 30th deadline have not received any funds, while other businesses that submitted paperwork on the same day or later have received funds. Also one business that applied on November 12th did not receive any funding while another business that applied on the same day did receive funding.

Stoddard County Presiding Commissioner, Danny Talkington, stated that funding to businesses was a "first come first serve" basis.

Harry Patel, owner of Econo Lodge Hotel, spoke at the meeting. Patel stated he felt discriminated against because two other local hotels had received 100% funding, while his hotel received no funding. He stated he submitted his paperwork on November 12th, which was confirmed by Trammell at the meeting. Several businesses were funded at 100% after his application was submitted.

"By the time his application was processed it is now sitting in this stack (pointing to a large stack of file folders on his desk) we are working on now. We are down to the point that most of the requests in November are still sitting and waiting." according to Talkington.

Patel went on to explain he had applied on the same day as another hotel, Hickory House Inn, and that business received 100% funding along with payroll reimbursement just days later.

"How come I did not receive any money?" Patel asked. Talkington stated his (Patel) was still in this stack to be processed.

"At that point we were taking them in as they were coming in and how they were processed and why yours was not turned in as quickly to us as the other person you are talking about, that I can't tell you. Once it comes to us we process it through and we go ahead do a payment and we were doing a 100% up until November 30th. Now we can not do 100% and the money is not there so we are going to try and figure out what we can do," Talkington answered.

"This is the way it's being done. You may not like it." stated Talkington, "We were processing them as quickly as they came in. EMA Director Frank Killian would review them and we would process them and write a check."

According to a printout received by this reporter by the Commission there were several checks written on December 8th for businesses in the amount of \$327,103.75. They are listed at the conclusion of this article.

Trammell, who helped to inform businesses, both members and non-members, of the Dexter Chamber of Commerce, does not know what to tell businesses who did not receive funds.

"It's just hard when I have two hotels, who submitted basically the exact same application. I mean, they came in together. We went through their documentation together. Their spreadsheets were basically the same. They didn't ask for anything different. I sent them within minutes of each other. And one is fully funded and the other is not," Trammell said.

Talkington could not explain why he had not seen the paperwork for Econo Lodge.

"As of now we have about \$1.4 million dollars in requests and less than \$50,000 in the account to be funded to businesses," stated Talkington. "Businesses will now only receive pennies on the dollar. We also had service organizations request monies and we

may or may not be able to fund them at this point."

Loflin asked if any businesses that applied earlier in the year such as October or early November did not get funding. Talkington said that maybe only one service organization that he knew of would not get funding.

Cecil Weeks, Stoddard County Clerk, is responsible for tracing CARES Act disbursements. At the November 30th meeting, according to Carol Jarrell, County Commissioner, Weeks presented a report showing over one million dollars available for disbursement. During the same meeting the Stoddard County Collector's office made available a report showing only \$750,000 available.

Loflin asked Talkington, "What did you believe you had in the bank on November 30th to disburse to those businesses applying on time?"

He stated that he believed they had a little over \$300,000 available to those businesses. Talkington stated that the Commissioners had pre-approved expenditures for the fire department and the health department; however they had not submitted their expense receipts.

"All those totals have come in now," commented Talkington. "We have \$43,000 left to disperse. Requests that came in on November 30th or after are around 1.4 million. We are trying to work on them now and how to approach that."

When asked did entities who submitted their application after the deadline receive funding before those businesses who applied prior to the deadline, Talkington replied "no". Steve Jordan, County Commissioner, followed with a resounding "no" as well. Loflin asked, "Are you 100% sure on that?" Talkington said "yes." "Those that applied after November 30th will not and have not been funded."

Businesses were given guidelines and instructions including eligible reimbursements and specific qualifying months. The original qualifying months were March, April, May, and June.

CARES Act money was deposited into the Stoddard County account on May 5, 2020. It wasn't until September that businesses were made aware that they could apply for CARES Act money. In the following months those businesses who had already applied were made aware they could appeal and ask for additional funding for months July, August, September, and October.

"New orders or new changes came out from the state (in September) so we extended that and took in businesses that were still being impacted," per Talkington. Loflin asked if that was made public. Talkington said, "We did not know if it was made public." When asked if some businesses were funded for those additional months, Talkington said, "yes". A press release from the Commission was not sent out to the ShowMe Times.

Other businesses were told they could only submit expenditures for the months March -June. While some businesses received a second check and even third check, many had not even received any funding at all.

Loflin stated when she submitted her application for ShowMe Times she was not made aware that she could apply for additional months of funding. Loflin applied through the Chamber of Commerce and stated she was told only March - June were available. Talkington said, "That's not my problem."

Trammell confirmed that she was only made aware of funding for March, April, May and June and it would be on a first come first serve basis.

Loflin asked the Commission, "Did entities who submitted their application for payroll and mortgage payments receive funding for those items?" Talkington stated "no" to payroll because that was covered under the PPP (Payroll Protection Program).

"We chose not to pay for payroll and to my knowledge not one business was paid for payroll out of the CARES Act," commented Talkington. "We would have to go back and look through all the applications to make sure."

Loflin requested a list from the Commissioners of those businesses who had received funding and the amounts. Loflin was told she that information is only available through Cecil Weeks, Stoddard County Clerk and she must submit a Sunshine Law Request form.

Loflin also requested a copy of the check register from January 1, 2020 to the present and again was told to obtain that information from Weeks utilizing a Sunshine Law Request form.

Both forms were submitted on Monday, December 14, 2020. Weeks stated that he would have to consult with the county's attorney in St. Louis prior to fulfilling the requests. By law Weeks has three days to provide the documentation.

Loflin asked about the August decision made by the Commission to do PSAs (Public Service Announcements) with the local news media outlets, ShowMe Times, KDEX, and the Daily Statesman, Talkington stated that Ben Godwin, Stoddard County Health Dept Administrator had come forward and said he was doing those PSAs. Talkington said Godwin was to rotate with each media outlet. Loflin researched this with Godwin and was told this was not being done. Loflin asked if they had moved the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the Health Dept. Talkington said they were in the process, but had not finalized the move yet.

Trammell asked at the end of the meeting how the businesses would know what funding they would receive. Talkington stated he would personally contact businesses to let them know what percentage of the CARES Act requests would be funded.

The County Clerk's office provided a print-out with the following information.

December 8, 2020 Checks for a total of \$327,103.75:

- American Steakhouse, \$46,741.19;
- Bell City R-2 Schools, \$12,520.34;
- Bloomfield Fire Department, \$99,923;
- Blue Mule Cafe, Bernie \$44,703.74;
- City of Dexter, \$7,486.58;
- Dexter Cinema LLC, \$7,117.99;
- Donut Palace, \$15,448.35;
- Dudley Fire Department, \$33,810;
- Paradise Lounge, Bernie \$33,205.94;
- Richland R-1 Schools, \$8,045.09;
- The Vendor Market, Bloomfield \$2,843.53;
- Wethington Tire and Auto, \$15,258.

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 16TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

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