

MINUTES
MASSAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting-June 20, 2024

Meeting convened at 6:00 PM with Jeff Brugger and Jayson Farmer present, Jimmy Burnham was absent.

Tiffany George, Executive Director with Southern Five, introduced herself and gave a background of Southern Five and the Energy Transition Community Grant. Brittany Taylor with Southern Five was also present.

The state originally said funds will be available until 2045. In February 2024, the state requested round two Phase I applications and the county applied. The funds available for Massac County are 1.9 million. Phase II application must include a public input meeting, which is the purpose of the meeting tonight.

David Christian with Metro Service Center states he would like to see some (a large portion) of the funds go towards expanding the broadband area.

Tiffany Korte with the Connect Massac Task Force spoke and agrees with David Christian. She requests \$500,000 to go towards the broadband expansion to better serve the community.

Kaley McGinnis with Connect Massac also spoke in agreement with Tiffany Korte and David Christian.

Tiffany George wanted to remind everyone that the funds need to be used within two years.

Dr. Vicki Artman spoke about broadband and how Joppa is severely underserved. She is requesting some type of business to bring revenue to Joppa. Vicki also states she would like to use funds to expand their library hours and purchase new computers to better serve the Joppa Community. She thanked the commissioners for what they have done so far and the people who served on Connect Massac. She also requested money for housing, which is included with Year 1.

Josh Reagor spoke next and agrees with Vicki Artman about housing, but also stated we have to have jobs to go along with the housing. He would like to see funds set aside for business development.

Lynn Goines with Massac Memorial Hospital spoke and stated they need a paramedic program again in the area.

Tiffany George thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.