

# Vilas County board OKs ARPA spending

## Resolutions include funding for new emergency generators

By Brian Jopek  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Vilas County board last week approved three resolutions authorizing the expenditure of \$1,361,568.02 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the county received from the federal government.

The total amount of ARPA funding received by Vilas County totaled \$4.3 million.

The first ARPA-related resolution the county board approved last week was for the purchase of 42 tablet computers for squad cars in the fleet of the Vilas County Sheriff's Office.

Vilas County board chairman Jerry Burkett, also chairman of the county board's law enforcement and emergency management committee, made the motion for the nearly \$197,000 purchase.

"Our tablets in the squads are at end of life," he said. "Some don't work at all. We need these to

do our job. This is a great place to put ARPA funds and letting our officers do their job better."

The second resolution approved by the county board was for \$10,025 to purchase and have installed a bypass valve as part of a water heater and heat exchanger replacement project also funded by ARPA money and approved by the county board in May of 2022.

The valve wasn't included in the original bid and the purchase brings the total amount in ARPA funding for that project to \$136,845.

The third resolution was to approve the use of \$1,155,404.20 in ARPA money to fund the largest of the ARPA-funded projects to date, the final phase of the project to replace the existing generators for the courthouse and justice center, the county highway shop and forestry office in Eagle River and the county's highway shop in Boulder Junction.

The cost for design of the project, \$49,900, was

actually among the first of the ARPA-related resolutions approved by the county board in May of 2022.

Vilas County finance director Darcy Smith said after the meeting with everything approved to this point, the county has \$1.2 million in ARPA money left.

As for any other projects that have been submitted for ARPA funding consideration, she said "there was one that was out there for parks projects that was brought forward a couple months ago."

"The finance and budget committee said that needed to wait until the generator project was approved," Smith said. "The committee didn't know at the time if the generator project was going to be \$2 million or \$1 million."

She said when the parks projects, upgrades to different county parks, were brought forward, the estimated cost was \$700,000.

"I don't know what it is now because they're going to rework it," Smith said.

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## Quilt show and pie sale on July 14

United Women in Faith will hold a quilt show and pie sale on Friday, July 14, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at United Methodist Church of the Pines, located at 415 Chippewa Street in downtown Minocqua.

Purchase tickets for \$5 per person to enter the quilt show, which features an amazing display of over 50 traditional to modern quilts.

While at the quilt show, enjoy a piece of delicious homemade pie and a cup of coffee for \$3 per person. A large variety of homemade pies will be for sale for \$10 and \$12.

Proceeds from the quilt Show and pie sale go to the United Women in Faith's mission projects. For more information about this event, visit [www.umchurchofthepines.org](http://www.umchurchofthepines.org) or call 715-356-3041.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPH

Sharry Wuest, coordinator of the quilt and pie show.



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