

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Lenawee County Announces Project Phoenix Shelved

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2022

The Lenawee County Administration has informed the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners that Project Phoenix in its current form will be shelved for now. This recommendation was given at the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 and followed a presentation that made it clear that Project Phoenix could not move forward without state or federal funding.

“I am very disappointed to have to bring this news before the board,” stated Lenawee County Administrator Kimberly Murphy. “We have all been working very hard to do our due diligence during the early stages of this project and the numbers suggest this project could be a real catalyst for our community and economy. Mere weeks ago, we were on track to see state and federal investment of over \$10-15 million into Lenawee County. Now that money will go to other communities. It is unfortunate that some individuals and agencies within our community advocated that money not be spent in Lenawee County.”

The Lenawee County Board of Commissioners did not appropriate funding for Lenawee Now as part of their budgeted third quarter appropriation. Commissioner Bales motioned to approve all third quarter allotments, except for the allotment to Lenawee Now. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tillotson. Passed by a vote of 6-3.

Lenawee County Administration made it clear to the Board of Commissioners that the work on Project Phoenix has not been work wasted.

“Our vision for the future of Lenawee County remains the same,” stated Murphy. “We want to create jobs, we want to make this a community attractive to young families, and we want to provide more programs and services for our residents. We’ve identified some gaps as part of these efforts, but we need revenue streams to fund these and facilities to house them. If Phoenix isn’t the solution, then what is? We need collaborative community partners to come to the table as we work together to find that solution.”

The information and slides from the Project Phoenix presentation are available on the Lenawee County website at www.lenawee.mi.us.

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