

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 28, 2021 7:00 p.m., via GoToMeeting

In attendance: J. Mancini, J. Duffield, G. Cook, L. Hogarty, K. Emerson, D. Bauer, A. Stirna, D. Lefko, S. O'Brien; N. Gorski, *ex officio*; Gina Regolo and Laurel Poletti, guests

Mancini called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and confirmed all persons in attendance.

**Review and approval of meeting minutes from October 26, 2021.** A motion was made by Cook to accept the meeting minutes of the November 23, 2021 Economic Recovery Committee Meeting, as presented. The motion as seconded by Hogarty. Mancini, Cook, Hogarty, Emerson, Duffield, and O'Brien approved the motion. Stirna abstained. Bauer and Lefko were not in attendance at time of vote. Motion passed.

**Financial Report – Accounting of Funds.** Regolo provided an accounting of funds and interest earned to date. Total balance, including interest is presently \$942,016.07.

**Update / Discussion of funds use categories.** Mancini reviewed the Committee's decision to break the categories of potential spending into tranches.

Regolo advised that she had received a request from The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries outlining a request of ARPA funds from Killingworth to support the purchase of a new truck. Additionally, she received a request for consideration submitted by Hogarty on behalf of the library seeking \$250,000 to build additional meeting space at the library.

Hogarty inquired as to whether our categories, as presented, were too limiting in that they would automatically knock out any suggestions from the public that did not fit into one of the pre-defined categories. O'Brien responded that the categories were designed to be a starting point to outline broad areas for which we knew spending was appropriate; however, we would never not consider a suggestion simply because it did not fit into those categories. Suggestions like that would still be considered, but due to their miscellaneous nature, they would require additional research to ensure that ARPA funds could be utilized for that type of project.

Laurel Poletti inquired as to whether the Soup Kitchens request for a new truck was specific to Killingworth or whether other shoreline towns were being asked for support as well. Regolo confirmed that it was a request submitted to multiple towns. Regolo will provide the committee with a copy of the request.

**New Business**

1. **Feedback from Public Letter.** Mancini announced that a few people have indicated that they were not able to participate in the call for public comments due to their not having access to email. The Committee discussed options for permitting the use of phone and/or USPS mail to submit comments/suggestions. The Committee ultimately determined that permitting USPS mail was the appropriate means to accept comments so as to ensure that the individual's comments/suggestions were adequately captured as intended. Gorski indicated that she would

put out an update to the town to inform residents that submissions would be accepted via email and USPS mail directed to town hall, attention Economic Recovery Committee.

Mancini advised that the point of obtaining these comments was to compile suggestions/concerns from the town, and to help us organize ideas on how to spend these ARPA funds. Each suggestion will be reviewed, it will be determined as to whether such suggestion qualifies for funding, and whether it would be appropriate to move forward with presenting any particular suggestions of spending to the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion continued with regard to the process of handling town feedback. Mancini reiterated that the objective of seeking town input was to be transparent with the town and to provide residents an opportunity to weigh in, but that the ultimate recommendation of spending suggestion to the Board of Selectmen will fall to the committee. O'Brien reminded the Committee that the letter to the town was drafted in such a way so as to prevent the anticipation of a personal response to each email, but rather the general response would be that we would review all suggestions and take them into consideration.

Stirna inquired as to whether the ARPA funds had to be spent over a variety of projects, or if it could be spent on one large project. Lefko confirmed that we make the recommendation of spending however we want to as a Committee and advised that some neighboring towns have opted to utilize their ARPA funding on one big project. Mancini advised regardless of what the Committee determined the appropriate use of funds was, we should keep in mind that it should not put a burden on the town in future budgeting years.

Hogarty discussed the library's proposal, as submitted.

Mancini confirmed that funds could be utilized to improve town buildings/meeting spaces, and even potentially on other infrastructure. Based upon discussion, inquired as to whether the Committee was comfortable continuing to utilize a broad spectrum of tranches as we head into the town hall in January. O'Brien commented that the tranches were really designed to show and explain what the funding can be used for, it does not imply that we have to spend a portion of the money in each of those categories. Rather they are there to keep us organized as suggestions come in and ensure we maintain compliance with appropriate use of the funds. The Committee agreed that the town hall is an opportunity for us to collect suggestions and ideas from the town as to what their concerns and needs are.

With regard to the town hall, the Committee discussed COVID-19 concerns and ways to ensure the public's safety, including the use of masks and an option to have the meeting in a hybrid form.

- 2. Special Meeting for purposes of organizing Town Hall meeting.** Mancini suggested that the Committee hold a special meeting to organize for the upcoming town hall meeting. After a discussion of possible dates, Bauer moved to hold a special meeting on January 12, 2022 to be held virtually at 7 p.m. The motion was seconded by Lefko. The motion passed unanimously by all Committee members in attendance.

### **3. 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule**

Bauer moved to accept the 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule as proposed. Cook seconded the motion. Discussion: Due to conflicts with other town meetings, it was requested that the February and March meetings be moved from the fourth Tuesday of the month to the fourth Wednesday of the month. O'Brien moved to amend the original motion to accept the 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule, amending the dates of the February and March meetings as discussed. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion to amend passed unanimously by all in attendance. The motion to accept the 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule, as amended, was then passed unanimously by all in attendance.

As approved, the 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule will be as follows:

- January 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- February 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- May 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- June 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- July 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- August 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- September 27, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- October 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- November 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- December 27, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Old Business.**

**Adjournment.** Bauer moved to adjourn the meeting. Cook seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously as presented by all those in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara O'Brien