

ARPA Committee

April 20, 2022

DRAFT

Board Members:

Craig Moody, Chair

Patti Sindorf, Vice Chair

Scott Ferguson

Tracy Donovan-Laviolette

Bonnie Gagnon

Representatives:

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan, BOS

Brian Taylor, MFD

Jim Keegan, Hwy

6:30 pm – Meeting called to order by Roxanne Tufts-Keegan

Pledge

New Business:

Attendee introductions. Five committee members will have voting rights, all departments can send representatives to collaborate with the committee, however they will not have voting rights.

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan explained that the committee was created to have input from town residents on how best to use the ARPA funds. The next payment will be coming in August. The committee should decide when and how often to meet. The town has already received the first payment of \$96,209.79 and paid out approximately \$90,000 in premium pay. The first round of funds must be used by 2024, it is believed the next round is to be used by 2025.

The state will determine if the guidelines for use of the ARPA funds were met. There are questions if premium pay can be used for elected officials, costs associated with premium pay such as taxes, social security and retirement. The committee discussed if funds would be approved for employees who may have worked outside the time frame of the pandemic.

Scott Ferguson makes a motion to rotate secretarial duties, Bonnie Gagnon seconded, the committee voted, motion passed. (5-0-0)

Scott Ferguson makes a motion to nominate Craig Moody as Chair, Bonnie Gagnon seconded, the committee voted, motion passed. (5-0-0)

Scott Ferguson makes a motion to nominate Patti Sindorf as Vice Chair, Bonnie Gagnon seconded, committee voted, motion passed. (5-0-0)

The committee discussed meeting monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on May 4, 2022.

It was discussed that the new Police contracts would be over budget and the previous BOS board stated that ARPA funds could be used to cover the overage.

The committee discussed the fire department personnel that did not receive premium pay when they worked all during the pandemic. Many spoke that premium pay was spent incorrectly by the previous BOS and should have gone to first responders first. The committee discussed that funds possibly should not been used for premium pay at all. If there are funds left over or returned from the first round the committee would revisit premium pay.

The committee discussed moving forward funds should be used to offset a one-time purchase that would benefit the town and save from taxation. A goal of August was set to have a public hearing to present the committees ideas and findings.

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan stated that the town could pursue \$50,000 in GOFERR funds. This would be something for the board to think of also when discussing need for ARPA funds. Some needs could be covered under the GOFERR grant.

Bonnie Gagnon motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm, Roxanne Tufts-Keegan seconded, the committee voted, motion passed. (5-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Donovan-Laviolette