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## **American Rescue Plan Committee Special Meeting Minutes - 01/12/2022**

### **Meeting date:**

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

### **Special Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Meeting of the Old Lyme American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee**

Meeting Date: January 12, 2022 @ 1:00

Location: Old Lyme Town Hall – Meeting Hall

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by the Chairman, Tom Gotowka.

Present: Jennifer Datum, Mary Jo Nosal, Dennis Powers, Dave Roberge, Mary Seidner, Martha Shoemaker, Nicole Leger and Cheryl Poirier'

Via Phone: Phil Parcak

1. **Discussion of Survey Findings**: Promulgation and Publication of Report

Rick reported that the final response count via Survey Monkey is 917 and Cheryl has 4 paper copies to input into Survey Monkey for a total of 921 surveys completed.

Rick feels a good sample set was collected with the response rate exceeding about 10% of Old Lyme residents. The focus of the meeting today is to start analysis. The committee is not accepting applications at this time and is evaluating outsourcing the application receipt/review process. The survey questions were developed with guidance from the ARPA parameters. The committee has until June 30, 2022 to make their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

#### **Survey Respondent Demographics:**

- 69% are primary residents of Old Lyme (reside in Old Lyme 6 months of the year)
- 7.3% are primary residents and own a business or run an organization in Old Lyme
- 18.3% own property in Old Lyme, but it is not their primary residence and they don't run a local business
- 3% own a business or run an organization in Old Lyme, but primary residence is not Old Lyme
- 2.2% none of the above applied to them

High Level Survey Results for How Funds Should be Allocated:

	Important to Consider Percentage	Most Important to Consider Percentage
Financial Assistance to OL families having difficulty recovering from pandemic losses	44.04%	10.16%
Investment in Mental Health Services or Public Health Services to assist OL Residents	49.32%	16.48%
Investment in Early Childhood Care & Education	40.08%	14.07%
Investment in OL Post Pandemic Small Business Recovery	51.55%	15.78%
Investment in Bringing Visitors to our OL attractions, Restaurants, Shops a& Accommodations	32.38%	9.63%
Financial Assistance to Nonprofit Organizations that provided relief and services to OL residents during the pandemic	49.63%	17.33%
Grant Premium Pay to OL Front-line Essential Workers who were at heightened risk due to the character of their work during the public health emergency	40.10%	17.56%
Reinvestment in OL Government Services that were deemed essential during the pandemic i.e. Emergency Services to ensure preparedness for future challenges	46.76%	16.83%
Investment in Affordable Housing to meet the needs of those working and living in OL	24.03%	14.57%
Investment in Current & Future Infrastructure Challenges such as clean water and sewer/waste treatment	30.30%	38.55%

Investment in Town-wide Broadband Internet Improvements and/or cell service for potentially reoccurring needs such as remote work, remote schooling & Tele-health medical services	39.21%	21.34%
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Rick recalled the organizations and individuals that were consulted over the past few months.

Sam Gold, Executive Director at RiverCOG, Maryam Elahi - CEO at Community Foundation of Eastern CT, Margaret O'Shea - Board Member CFECT, Ross W. Higgins, - First Congregational Church of Old Lyme and Region #18 School Superintendent Ian Neviasser and Region #18 Business Manager Holly McCalla. He also acknowledged the public comments of Lenny Corto and Jeri Baker - Chair of the Board of Directors of the Lymes' Senior Center

The committee discussed the high level results and decided on next steps.

- Martha will put together an Executive Summary of the survey results
- The following subcommittees were formed to analyze the raw data in the ARPA assigned categories and identify priorities.

Public Safety	Dave & Mary Jo
Entertainment Arts Hospitality	Cheryl
Mental Health, Social Services	Mary and Jennifer
Infrastructure	Martha & Phil
Business & Industry	Rick & Dennis

**9-. Adjournment:** a motion to adjourn was made by Martha and seconded by Mary Jo. There was no discussion. The motion passed with all attending in favor. There were no abstentions or nays. The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk

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