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American Rescue Plan Committee Meeting Minutes - 02/02/2022

Meeting date:

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Minutes:

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

Meeting Date: February 2, 2022 @ 12:00

Location: Old Lyme Town Hall – Meeting Hall

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by the Chairman, Tom Gotowka.

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

Absent Phil Parcak

1. Approval of Minutes:

Dennis motioned to approve the January 19, 2022 minutes and Mary Jo seconded.

Cheryl motioned to amend today's Agenda to include a Survey Results Update presented by Cheryl Poirier and to follow Item 3. Martha seconded and the motion was approved. There were no abstentions or nays.

1. Ledge Light Health District Director of Health (LLHD) Stephen Mansfield

Stephen Mansfield in a letter to the BOS is requesting 1% (\$21,622.15) of the total ARPA Old Lyme funds. Stephen described the community services that LLHD provides to 10 municipalities in eastern Connecticut. Committee members asked questions around testing, vaccines and behavioral health issues. Stephen reported that LLHD is in a good fiscal state and their core functions would not be disrupted if the funds were not granted. To date 7 municipalities have agreed to fund 1% of their ARPA funds to LLHD. Old Lyme, Lyme and Groton are still pending.

Rick asked if conflicts of interest could become an issue in this decision process. A discussion ensued and all committee members agreed if any individual felt they had a conflict of interest they would recuse themselves. The committee also agreed that this request from LLHD is a special category that does not need to go through the application process.

Rick motioned to have the ARPA Committee agree to recommend to the BOS and BOF the payment of 1% (\$21,622.15) of ARPA Old Lyme funds requested by LLHD. Martha seconded and the motion was approved. There were no abstentions or nays. Note: Tom Gotowka represents Old Lyme on LLHD's Board of Directors, which is an unpaid position, and did not recuse himself.

1. **Survey Results Update:** Cheryl Poirier reported that 5 and a half more paper survey results were manually entered into Survey Monkey. There were no comments submitted and she will be distributing the new STATS to committee members.
2. **Clarification of Requirements for Town Meeting:**

Tom said there is confusion around requirements for approving the allocation of the funds. Is a Town Meeting vote required? The committee decided to ask the BOS to define and approve the process that they would like to adopt. Martha will invite First Selectman Griswold to the February 16, 2022 meeting.

1. **Begin Development of ARPA Application Process**

Committee members agree to use a standardized application process. Mary Jo shared samples of other municipality applications and all agreed they need to have a better understanding of what RiverCOG may be providing. Dave will compile a list of the committee members questions about the RiverCOG reporting tool/application process & cost and submit to RiverCOG by this Friday.

The latest release of the "ARPA Final Rule" by the Department of the Treasury seems to include two provisions, which the Committee felt required further clarification: First, the town can take the standard allowance of up to \$10,000,000 (in our case up to \$2,100,000 and second, it is clear flood mitigation is not allowed. Rick asked for a letter of legal opinion and an engineering report to assist with decisions that need to be made concerning sewer, clean water and flooding issues. Martha will contact the town attorney for assistance and ask him to attend the next meeting. She will also be informing the BOS and BOF.

7. New Business: Mary Jo asked Nicole Leger if there is a plan B in place for the required ARPA filings due in April 2022. Nicole said she is the contact person on file therefore she is responsible for reporting. She will be consulting with her peers to see how they are proceeding.

8. Public Comment: None

9-. Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by Cheryl 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 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk

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