

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

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 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, Laura Lefko, Jamie Young, Roslyn Reeps, Eileen Blewett, Charles Morgan, Carolyn Anderson, Eric Nunes, Mike Drew, Rick Darin, Eileen Unger, Greta Venuti, Cheryl Fine, Richard Pleines, Adam Coppola, Josep Hutchins, Margaret Gale, Elizabeth Disbrow, Robert Drew, Kathleen Zandi, Laurel Poletti, Veronica, Suzanne, Rich, Nowalk, Cinny, and four (4) unidentified callers, guests.

Mancini called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Public meeting to discuss the ARPA funding received by the town of Killingworth, possible spending, and the role of the Economic Recovery Committee. Mancini provided an introduction and overview of the purpose of the meeting. Mancini began working through the PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview to those in attendance of the Economic Recovery Committee and the ARPA funding that has been received by the town of Killingworth. Bauer assisted in the presentation of the PowerPoint.

Mancini opened the meeting platform to accept public comment/questions.

- i. Jamie Young: Inquired as to the guidance/support the Committee has to elaborate on how funding could be used on environmental/water conservation/etc., and how public comment will be accepted by the Committee moving forward.
 - a. Mancini referenced the materials that the Committee has been relying upon for guidance from the Department of Treasury, all of which are posted to the Committee's webpage for public review.
 - b. Bauer explained the purpose of the Committee's monthly meetings and further explained the purpose of the Committee's town email to explain how the Committee will accept public comment following this meeting.
- ii. Roslyn Reeps: Inquired as to why just water and broadband was called out under the category of infrastructure.
 - a. Mancini responded that our PowerPoint was created utilizing the guidance obtained from the Department of Treasury.
 - b. Gorski added that the town is aware of the PFAS concern, and however these funds are ultimately spent, they should be spent judiciously.
- iii. Roslyn Reeps: Inquired about whether funds could be used to support pantries and soup kitchens.
 - a. Mancini responded that there is an opportunity to provide funding to those types of entities and they will be reviewed as a possibility.
- iv. Adam Coppola: Inquired as to whether this was an appropriate forum to express a specific idea for spending.
 - a. Mancini responded that specific ideas for spending should be emailed to the Committee's email so that the details of the idea could be reviewed thoroughly.
- v. Carolyn Anderson: Inquired as to whether, if there is an urgent need, that the Committee could allocate funds for immediate use.
 - a. Mancini responded that that would be a possibility for consideration.

- vi. Jamie Young: Inquired as to whether the Committee will open the comment period up for a second pass of recommendations down the road.
 - a. Mancini responded that if the Committee makes an initial pass at utilizing the funding, and it does not fully allocate the funds, then we could be considering taking a second pass at accepting recommendations through public comment. Over the past 4 months, the Committee has been focused on procedures, but our next task is to determine how funds should actually be used in Killingworth.
- vii. Laura Lefko: Inquired as to whether reoccurring expenses are permitted.
 - a. Mancini responded that from a budgetary perspective, we cannot use these funds for reoccurring expenses and they should not be used to supplement our town operating budget.
- viii. Laura Lefko: Inquired as to who makes the final decision as to the use of these funds.
 - a. Gorski responded that the Committee will report to the Board of Selectmen, who will then make recommendations to the town. The Board of Selectmen will then act and make the determination as to whether this needs to go to town meeting for further input from the public or not.
- ix. Adam Coppola: Inquired as to the date that the committee is planning to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.
 - a. Mancini responded that it is premature to confirm a date, but the goal would be to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen by late spring.
- x. Eileen Unger: In light of the fact that a number of things we do are on a multitown basis, has the Committee taken that into account?
 - a. Mancini responded that this is something the Committee has taken into consideration, and in fact the Committee has already received a request from a multi-town entity.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara O'Brien