

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

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., via GoToMeeting

In attendance: A. Stirna, D. Lefko, K. Emerson, J. Mancini, J. Duffield, D. Bauer, G. Cook, and S. O'Brien; N. Gorski, *ex officio*; Gina Regolo, Eileen Blewett, Laura Lefko, Greta Venuti, and Dan O'Sullivan

Mancini called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., confirmed all persons in attendance, and confirmed there was a quorum of the committee.

Public Comment:

- Dan O'Sullivan, President of Ambulance Association, reported that he submitted a request to the ERC seeking funding from the ARPA monies provided to Killingworth. He presented a top-level overview of the request to the Committee, which included requests to purchase a new stretcher to be added to their new ambulance, a new Lucas device, an updated AED on the ambulance, and updated AEDs around town that should be replaced.
 - Cook inquired about the estimate for the new ambulance. Dan clarified that the request is only for the stretcher and not for the ambulance.
 - Stirna initiated discussion regarding where AEDs should be located and who should have access to these devices. The Committee discussed whether it would be appropriate for coaches or gatekeepers to have access to these AEDs, as well as some additional areas of concern that the AEDs could/should be placed. Dan mentioned that if we were to order 10 new AEDs the supplier would give a discount on the price. Dan agreed that it would be beneficial to work with Parks and Rec to determine if they needed updated AEDs as well.
 - O'Brien inquired further about the stretcher replacement. Dan confirmed that their plan was to use the stretcher they currently have, but it would be their preference to have a new one. That new stretcher is not currently included in the price of the new ambulance.

Review and approval of meeting minutes from February 23, 2022. Stirna moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 23, 2022, as presented. Cook seconded the motion.

Discussion: Cook sought clarification of the meeting minutes regarding reference to Mancini's statement that the final rule did away with the ability to use funds for negative impact. Mancini clarified that the final rule did not do away with the ability to use funds for negative impact, but rather did away with the need to perform a calculation to determine how much of the funding could be used for negative impact. Now, all funds could be used for negative economic impact purposes.

Mancini moved to amend the Motion to include clarification as presented above. Cook seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Original Motion as amended passed unanimously.

Determine location for May, June, July, and August ERC meetings. O'Brien initiated discussion regarding whether our meetings for May thru August should continue to be held virtually, or if they should be held in person. The Committee discussed the pros/cons of in-person vs. virtual meetings, as

well as personal preference. Following discussion, Mancini confirmed that he would confer with Gorski about the Committee's ability to utilize the EOC for our meetings going forward.

O'Brien moved to make the May, June, July and August meetings hybrid with the in-person meeting being held at the EOC, provided it is available. Stirna seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – Accounting of Funds. Regolo reported that the interest on the first payment received by the town now totaled \$516.16, creating a total balance of \$942,230.92. The second payment should be received by the town in June 2022.

Regolo reported that a report accounting to the spending of ARPA funds is due April 30, 2022. Since a decision regarding the spending hasn't been made, the report will simply read that there are no projects available. Once we determine a use for the funds, that report will change when it is due next April.

Discussion of projects for use of funds.

- **Themes**
- **Prohibited Expenses**
- **Eligible Uses**
- **BOS Capital Budget Proposal**

Mancini recapped the establishment of "buckets" of spending and advised that it would be good for the Committee to focus on the capital projects first in hopes of having a financial impact on this year's town budget. O'Brien provided a recap of meeting documents and suggested that the Committee's discussion focus on capital expenditures and that discussions regarding any remaining projects be tabled.

Stirna initiated discussion about moving some of the money back to the Board of Selectman and simply letting them determine how the money should be spent on the capital projects. The Committee discussed that we were charged with making a recommendation and we cannot simply hand the money back to the Board of Selectman without further clarification and recommendation for spending. Mancini reiterated the sentiment of the Committee and stated that the Committee was charged to make specific recommendations, and therefore, even if spending money on the capital budget, we have an obligation to provide recommendations as to the specific capital projects it should be used for.

O'Brien advised that the Committee select a few projects, some of which will be on this year's capital budget, while the rest would create a funding pool to support ongoing projects in the future which could be incorporated into future capital budgets. By way of example, O'Brien referenced upgrades/renovations to town hall and other town campus buildings/property. Mancini commented that we should consider putting a portion of funding towards this year's capital budget, and another portion towards next year's capital budget.

Emerson sought clarification as to what funding source the fire company's ARPA fund request should be addressed in (i.e., would it be considered in the negative impact category of \$1.7 million or in the remaining \$100,000+). O'Brien confirmed that the fire company's request was not part of the Board of Selectman's proposed capital budget and commented that if we were going to classify the fire company's request under negative economic impact then the ambulance would also need to be included in that category and reviewed the same way.

Cook inquired as to when a recommendation would need to be provided to get it into this budget season. Regolo advised it would need to be made by the end of April. Stirna/O'Brien commented that it should really be figured out this meeting due to the Board of Finance's meeting and decision timeline.

Cook inquired as to whether the Committee could recommend that a specific amount go into this year's budget to be spent on capital expenditure and then provide more detailed parameters at a later date. Discussion ensued as to whether it would be appropriate to put money into the capital budget without further breakdown versus selecting a couple of projects within the capital budget and focusing on those. Mancini reiterated that we owe it to the town to create a finite list of recommendations and cannot simply pass a broad sweeping recommendation.

Stirna advised the Committee to keep in mind that upgrades/renovations to town hall have been shut down by the town in the past. Cook acknowledged the comment but stated that at this time we are in a position where things need to be updated/fixed. Our recommendation does not need to be specific to a complete rebuild but could be put towards specific projects to update/upgrade.

Cook moved that the Committee continue dialogue to determine how ARPA funds should be spent and what recommendations for finite projects should be made to the Board of Selectmen. Lefko seconded the motion.

Discussion: Stirna advised that in doing this the Committee will not be able to appropriate any funds to this year's budget.

Bauer, Duffield, Lefko, Cook, and Emerson approved the motion. Stirna and O'Brien voted against the motion. The Motion passed, 5-2.

Duffield questioned whether the Board of Finance expected to receive money from the ARPA funds received by Killingworth. Stirna confirmed that it was not an expectation.

O'Brien moved for a Special Meeting to be held March 30, 2022 in-person at 7:00 p.m. at the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company for purposes of discussing the allocation and appropriation of the \$1.7 million that could be added to this budget season's capital budget. Stirna seconded the motion.

Discussion: Cook requested that everyone review the budget in advance of the next meeting (see page 6 of tonight's meeting document regarding the capital budget).

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment. Lefko moved to adjourn the meeting. Cook seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.