

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

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company

In attendance: A. Stirna, D. Lefko, K. Emerson, J. Mancini, J. Duffield, D. Bauer, L. Hogarty, and S. O'Brien; Eileen Blewett and J. Samperi

Mancini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., confirmed all persons in attendance, and confirmed there was a quorum of the committee.

Review and approval of meeting minutes from March 23, 2022. Lefko moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 23, 2022. Seconded by Bauer.

Discussion: O'Brien pointed out that the meeting minutes read that the March 23, 2022 meeting was a special meeting, which it was not.

O'Brien moved to amend the minutes to remove any reference to a "special" meeting.

Seconded by Lefko.

Motion passed: Yes: Stirna, Lefko, Emerson, Duffield, Bauer, and O'Brien; Abstained: Hogarty
Original motion as amended passed: Yes: Stirna, Lefko, Emerson, Duffield, Bauer, and O'Brien;
Abstained: Hogarty

Discussion of use of funds on the 2022-2023 proposed Board of Selectmen capital budget. Mancini explained the ultimate purpose of tonight's special meeting was to decide whether to make a suggestion to Board of Selectmen for use of ARPA funds to offset some of the 2022-2023 proposed capital budget.

Lefko indicated that he would support allocating some funding to support the capital projects related to the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company.

Stirna commented that the larger capital plans for renovations to the town hall amounted to approximately \$2 million, while the renovations to the fire house amounted to approximately \$5 million. Selectman Lou Annino thought that it would be better to put in small amounts of money each capital budget year over the next couple of years to work through these plans rather than putting it all in one year and having to bond for it. While the full project for renovations would have to be approved by the town, funding some of these capital projects related to renovations would kickstart the process (i.e., funding the \$200,000 for engineer/design costs for the town hall). Stirna also indicated that the purpose of the ARPA funds is to get them into the community and the longer we hold them, the longer we aren't doing that.

Lefko suggested the Committee fund everything related to KVFC, less the \$500,000 cost, and then look at the rest of the proposed capital budget to see what else the Committee would be interested in funding to reach a total amount of approximately \$500,000 to make a suggestion to the Board of Selectmen.

Emerson sought clarification on the previously determined 1.7 million allocation to capital budget and infrastructure projects, and the remaining allocation of funds to cover other specific community requests, and whether any of the community requests would actually fall within that larger 1.7 million or the smaller bucket of funds. The Committee expressed their opinions on that distinction.

Mancini, Stirna, and O'Brien expressed the need to seek clarity from the Board of Selectmen on the process of the Committee making suggestions to the Board of Selectmen for use of these funds, including what happens if the Board of Selectmen does not agree with a recommendation made by the Committee. To date, this guidance has not been made clear to the committee.

Stirna commented that any item on the proposed capital budget was originally recommended by the Board of Selectmen and therefore, they should agree with any suggested allocation of ARPA funds to assist in covering these expenses. Stirna advised that the town would need to vote on the budget as a whole, and in addition would need to vote on renovations to town hall and the fire house.

Duffield commented that the town really wants a larger meeting/gathering space, and we need to focus on that request with renovations to town hall and the fire house. The Committee should seek to subsidize this expense where possible.

Lefko suggested that the Committee make a suggestion to allocate \$281,796 for KVFC capital expenses and \$200,000 for town hall renovation designs with a caveat that the Committee's interest in funding this with ARPA funds is to address the community's interest in having additional/larger meeting room space. Bauer suggested that we also suggest to fund the \$80,000 for the transfer station capital expenses. Stirna agreed that this would be a good item to fund in this capital budget so as to reduce the balance we have to fund because the tipping fees have gone up.

Hogarty moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen an allocation of \$561,796 of ARPA funds to offset capital budget expenses, specifically to fund all KVFC expenses, less 500k; all transfer station items, totaling \$80,000; and the \$200,000 expense to cover the planning/design costs of renovations to the town hall, with a specific caveat that the Committee would like these plans to include updates/new meeting space options for the community. Seconded by Lefko.

Motion passed: Yes: Stirna, Lefko, Emerson, Duffield, Hogarty, and O'Brien; Abstained: Bauer

Mancini agreed to send an email to the First Selectman's Office requesting a special meeting in front of the Board of Selectmen in order to make this recommendation.

Adjournment. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. Stirna seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.