

**ARPA Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 26, 2023  
5:30pm via Zoom &  
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

**Present:** Austin Tanner, Joe Voccio, David Lee, Ken Dykstra, and Sara Deshaies, Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Members of the public, Chief Breen and Chief Peppin, Mike Podzaline, Patricia Buell, and Bill Skene (6:04pm)

1. Call to Order – A. Tanner called the meeting to order at 5:31pm
2. Approve Minutes: 12/8/2022 – D. Lee made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. J. Voccio seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0.
3. Public Comment – Patricia Buell wanted to update the Committee that the phones are close to completion, servers are setup and some reimbursement has been received from insurance. She will formally notify First Selectmen. HVAC is paused at this time. Looking for grants through Eversource.
4. Discussion on New Applications: AmVets & Fire Commissioners –
  - a. AmVets – They asked their resubmitted application to be considered. The original application looked for \$70,000, the new application is looking for specific amount of \$16,140.00 to recoup losses from not being able to fundraise during the Pandemic. J. Voccio stated that he is in support of the more specific rationale. D. Lee made a motion to approve. J. Voccio seconded. K. Dykstra supports as well. Motion 4-0-0.
  - b. Fire Commissioners – 3 full time firefighters and benefits for \$250,000. They gave their rationale for this. There was much discussion about the appropriateness of using ARPA funds for this or if it should be a Board of Finance item. D. Lee read all the public service requirements. ARPA funds are not meant for this. J. Voccio feels there is a sense of urgency. J. Voccio made a motion to table the present action and to refer this matter to NECCOG for evaluation. D. Lee seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0.
5. Discussion on NECCOG Response – All applications submitted passed but John Filchak of NECCOG stated that 4H on its surface doesn't qualify as the dam has been in disrepair for longer than the Pandemic and the dam doesn't affect drinking water. However, the 4H has significant positive impacts in the community. Therefore, it would be eligible for funding. ARPA Committee will take his feedback under advisement.

D. Lee made clarification of the outline of the contract between the Town and NECCOG and what services they provide. NECCOG will review the Town proposed use of funds from the Act to ensure the funds are used for eligible expenditures, programs and services. NECCOG will assist the Town in completing and filing of federal reports to any state or federal agency, including federal budget and expenditure reporting and having a NECCOG staff member, service or authorized representative according to the U.S. Treasury. NECCOG will review any contracts between the Town and grant recipients, reviewing purchasing documents to ensure cost recovery and compliance. Expenditures using federal funds including but not limited to federal procurement rules and regulations and will maintain records for five years.
6. Discussion to Affirm Actual Funding Requests – A. Tanner stated that federal grants generally require a contract for agreement and tracking purposes and that the Committee should adopt

something similar for recipients. At the next meeting the Committee will review before putting into action.

7. Discussion on Klingensmith Denial – Requesting a Response – Email received from applicant asking for a complete breakdown of all reasons the application was denied. A. Tanner stated that he previously sent the spreadsheet with the ratings. A. Tanner is meeting with the applicant next week to discuss. D. Lee stated there was a rational thought process for all the requests. K. Dykstra said that the applicant stated in his email to Melissa it was a loan.
8. Correspondence – Library – A. Tanner received a letter the Brooklyn Library asking for funding to be made available now for necessary repairs. D. Lee made a motion to support the Library for up to \$10,000 now. J. Voccio seconded. There was discussion about how to get them the funds. J. Voccio stated it is a dire situation. Motion passed 4-0-0. J. Voccio stated the Library should have to submit all the paperwork any other recipient would have to.
9. Set Next Meeting Date – Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.
10. Public Comment – None.
11. Adjourn – J. Voccio made a motion to adjourn. D. Lee seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Deshaies,  
Recording Secretary