

ARP ADHOC SUBCOMMITTEE
EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 20, 2022
MINUTES

PRESENT: Anne Santoro, Ann Cicchiello, Paul Maxfield, Rich Steel, Lee Edwards, Aileen Cahill, Rita Rivera, Pandy Wohler

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Kevin Seery and Finance Director Anna Johnson

Ms. Santoro called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and Mr. Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Introduction of Members

Rich Steel, Board of Finance

Ann Cicchiello, Board of Selectmen; former Board of Finance member

Anne Santoro, Board of Selectmen; former Board of Finance member

Paul Maxfield, Board of Finance

Lee Edwards, Resident

Aileen Cahill, Resident

Pandy Wohler, Nonprofit Representative

Rita Rivera, Nonprofit Representative

FILED

Jan 26, 2022 AT 10:17 AM/PM
Brooke Horvath ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

4. Election of Officers

MOTION (1)

Mr. Edwards nominated Ms. Santoro as Chairman. There were no other nominations.

Seconded by Ms. Cahill. Motion passed 8-0.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Edwards nominated Mr. Steel as Vice Chairman.

Seconded by Ms. Wohler. IN FAVOR; Cahill, Maxfield, Rivera, Steel and Wohler. ABSTAINED; Cicchiello. Motion passed 5-1-2.

Ms. Santoro nominated Ms. Cicchiello as Vice Chairman. There was no second to this nomination.

5. Delegations

There were none.

Ms. Santoro stated that they would go out of order and hear agenda item #7 at this point in the meeting.

7. Director of Finance Report

Ms. Johnson thanked everyone for volunteering for this important subcommittee. She reviewed the list of what has been spent so far and the dates that meetings were held, attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Ms. Johnson reported that a separate account has been set up to oversee the ARP appropriations. She stated that \$1,684,002 has been appropriated thus far; all appropriations were first approved by the Board of Selectmen, then approved by the Board of Finance, then finally approved by members of the public at

Board of Selectmen
ARP Ad hoc Subcommittee Meeting
January 20, 2022

Special Town Meeting. Ms. Johnson stated that all items have been and will be vetted through the Town Attorney to confirm that they are an appropriate expenditure. She summarized that the Town would receive a total of \$5.4 million, there is \$3,779,837.68 remaining to spend, we have received half so far with the remaining expected in June 2022. Ms. Johnson noted that \$12,500 will need to be moved back into the total amount to spend as we made a mistake by allocating ARP towards a state funded project, specifically the money previously allocated for the pump out boat to Save The River Save The Hills on October 6th. She reported that the money needs to be allocated by December 2024 and spent by LISTEN. The first report of allocation is due in April of 2022.

Ms. Santoro inquired if the Town would qualify for the lost revenue aspect of the American Rescue Plan, and Ms. Johnson stated that she does not believe that we will qualify because the major loss was in the Parks and Recreation account and not the General Fund. Mr. Steel inquired if the Board of Education is receiving their own funds, and Ms. Johnson confirmed that yes, the BOE is receiving their own ARP funds and will not be asking for funds through the Board of Selectmen process. Ms. Santoro inquired if we utilized any ARP funds for premium pay, and Ms. Johnson stated that we did not.

6. Charge of the Subcommittee

Ms. Santoro read the subcommittee's charge as follows:

In order to help mitigate the negative impacts of Covid-19, the Committee shall develop and recommend to the Board of Selectmen a plan to distribute \$3,792,337.68 remaining in federal ARP funds allocated to the Town. The recommended plan must be consistent with the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act as well as the current governing regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department that implement the Act. In particular, the plan must recommend uses of the allocate funds that are allowable under the Act, can be completed by December 31, 2026, and that take into consideration ARP funds thus far appropriated and distributed by the Town. The plan shall be completed and delivered to the Board of Selectmen at the Selectmen's regular meeting of March 16, 2022. The term of the Committee shall end on April 7, 2022, or as otherwise determined by the Board of Selectmen. As the role of the Committee is advisory, nothing in this charge shall limit the ability of the Town to address Covid related impacts independently from the plan, particularly those that may be pressing or immediate, by appropriating ARP funds in accordance with the terms of the Act and the Town Charter.

Ms. Santoro explained that this subcommittee should be prepared to report to the Board of Selectmen at their March 8th meeting. She reminded the members that this subcommittee has an advisory role only and that the Board of Selectmen will make the final decisions on what items move forward. She explained that the First Selectmen directed the department heads to report to the Board of Selectmen with infrastructure items that should be considered. Mr. Steel stated that they should think about a couple of items, such as the best ways to get information out to the public, and also how we might incorporate the POCD into our requests.

8. Permitted Uses of ARP Funds

Ms. Santoro stated that there are numerous resources out there for information on the appropriate use of these funds, namely the Department of Treasury as well as the Council of Government (COG). She advised the committee that in their research they should also concentrate on the "not permitted" items as this will act as a guide. Ms. Johnson stated that although there are a number of resources available, she advises that they concentrate on the Treasury Department.

Ms. Wohler left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

9. Process/Timeline/Meeting Schedule

Ms. Santoro stated that they reviewed the timeline, with the first presentation to the Board of Selectmen on March 8th. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, January 27th at 5pm at Town Hall. Before the next meeting they will work to draft an online application for the public to utilize to apply, as well as some suggestions with what criteria will be utilized to determine eligibility to receive funds. It was discussed that an email be created to be used during this process.

10. Adjourn

MOTION (3)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to adjourn the January 20, 2022, meeting of the East Lyme BOS ARP Ad hoc Subcommittee at 6:44 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Maxfield. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

EXHIBIT 1

LIST OF EAST LYME ARP APPROPRIATIONS AS OF 1/18/22

1. Town Meeting 1/5/22—\$67,392 NOVAtime time and attendance system

2. Town Meeting 12/1/21—\$1,010,000: \$920,00 Water & Sewer—Well 5 Reconstruction; \$30,000 Niantic Main Street (Charette study); \$60,000 Town Clerk Digitizing of Land Records

3. Town Meeting 10/6/21—\$126,053: \$54,638 Ledge Light Health District; \$25,000 East Lyme Giving Garden; \$8,965 SECT Council of Governments; \$12,500 Save the River/ Save the Hills (pump out boat—amount to be re-allocated); \$13,950 American Legion; \$9,000 V.F.W.; \$2,000 New London Homeless Hospitality Center

4. Town Meeting 9/1/21—\$280,557: \$5,129 WIFI improvements at Town Hall; \$14,428 Virtual Meeting Package at Town Hall; \$132,000 Microwave Dishes for Emergency Management; \$44,000 Security Cameras at various Town locations; \$55,000 Wellness/ Prevention/Mentoring Coordinator for East Lyme Youth Services; \$20,000 Clinical Therapist/Counselor for East Lyme Youth Services; \$10,000 Shoreline Kitchen and Food Pantry (regional refrigerated truck)

5. Town Meeting 8/4/21—\$200,000 Public Safety Building (roof replacement)

\$1,684,002.00 total appropriated

\$5,463,839.68 total funding

\$3,779,837.68 remaining balance