



Finance Committee
June 29, 2021 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes

Note: Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting was conducted via remote means. Members of the public were able to access the meeting in real time via Zoom or by telephone.

Members participating remotely: De Angelis, Griesemer, Schoen, Pam, Steinberg, non-voting members Hegner, Kubiak, and Sheffler

Members absent: *None*

Others participating remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Town Clerk Athena O’Keeffe, and Minute Taker Scott Belden.

1. Call to Order

Steinberg declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting at 2:01 PM, confirmed all participants could hear and be heard, and announced audio and visual recording.

2. Review the Town Manager’s proposed process for the allocation of ARPA Funds and propose a process to the Council

Steinberg thanked all the participants for being present at the meeting on such short notice. Mangano shared his screen and gave a brief overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds coming to the Town and the funding objectives. Mangano noted that Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) is already addressing many of the issues that the Town faced from the pandemic, but that ARPA could provide support after CARES has lapsed.

Steinberg opened the meeting up to questions, asking how the funds are delivered to the Town, and Mangano replied that because the Town is not in a county government the Town will receive funds directly in two major tranches of 50% of the total each. Steinberg asked if there would be one process or two for both of the tranches. Mangano replied he believed that one process would likely be sufficient for both.

Members discussed:

- Separate school system grants and how it affects the Town’s allocation of ARPA funds
- Revenue replacement for budget shortfalls and if ARPA could be used for utilities
- Non-resident commuting workers’ eligibility for ARPA reimbursement
- Whether ARPA funds could be used for overhead costs in maintaining the grant
- Whether ARPA should be used to address Town needs or aid small businesses

Mangano gave an overview of a potential timeline for ARPA fund allocation, starting with the creation of a temporary advisory group to oversee the funds.

Members discussed:

- The role of the Town Council and Town Manager in the final stages of fund allocation
- Creation of an “action plan” similar to a disaster recovery plan
- Identifying the immediate and long term needs of the Town early in the process
- The pros and cons of having councilors as members of the committee versus residents
- Direct outreach to the BIPOC community to ensure an equitable committee
- Maintaining transparency to the public about the advisory committee’s decisions

Kubiak noted that the money does not have to be spent immediately, and that using the funds to address shortfalls from the town would be beneficial to everybody. Mangano also posed the question of using these funds immediately to address immediate concerns, and whether that would be possible from the Finance Committee. Members agreed that addressing immediate issues would be an appropriate use of the funds.

The Committee made various suggestions and delegated the task of coming back with a revised proposal to Mangano and Steinberg for the next meeting.

3. Decide whether Finance Committee meetings will be in person or remote for July and August

Steinberg noted that if the Finance Committee was going to meet in a week, they would have to decide whether to meet in person or virtually. Mangano noted that being prepared with what the funds could be used on first would be useful in the next meeting. Pam expressed she preferred Zoom for meetings. DeAngelis preferred in person meetings.

MOTION: Grisemer motioned, Schoen seconded, for the Finance Committee to continue meeting virtually until September 1st, 2021.

VOTE: 5-0-0, Unanimous Vote, Non-voting members voiced their support.

4. Public comment

None, no attendees present

5. Topics not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before the meeting

None

6. Adjourn

Steinberg adjourned at 3:53PM.

Draft Respectfully Submitted, Scott Belden, Minute Taker

Minutes reviewed, edited, approved 8/9/21 Schoen

Record of agenda packet materials and documents presented

Finance Committee Agenda 06.29.2021
Memo to Town Council on ARPA funds