

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dave Koji, Vice Chair Greg Barden, Marge Mlodzinski, Jack Faski, Chuck Maynard, Stan Soby.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Town Planner Matt Bordeaux, Consultant Stacy Farber from UHY Certified Public Accountants, Board of Finance Member Tim Vaillancourt.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Koji called this Special Meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes were requested.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments received.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2021

The minutes of the previous meetings were submitted for review and approval.

Motion by: G. Barden

to approve the December 13, 2021, meeting minutes, as read.

Second by: C. Maynard.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5. UHY Approve by the Board of Selectmen (BOS)

5A. Discuss what that means to the ARPA Committee

The BOS approved the consulting firm UHY LLL Certified Public Accountants to help with the process of reviewing the ARPA applications. Consultant Stacy Farber was introduced to the members. Chair Koji will send S. Farber the link to review the applications that have been received to date. S. Farber said she will monitor the process, review the applications and be a guide through the process.

The original charge to the committee remains the same.

5B. Discuss next steps for the review process with UHY

All current and future applications will be reviewed by the UHY Consultant. The main priority is to complete the review of small business applications and present those applications that meet the requirements to the BOS for approval.

Selectman Bisbikos joined the discussion noting that the Town departments have applications that will be further reviewed as some items could be under infrastructure or there may be potential financial resources such as grants or other funding outside the ARPA funds. Some of the projects requested must go out to bid or through other proper channels.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2022 MAR -2 PM 3:01
Marge Mlodzinski
TOWN CLERK

6. DISCUSS THE ORDER OF ARPA APPLICATIONS FOR BOS REVIEW

After review of existing applications by UHY, the ARPA Committee will do a final review and then the applications will be forwarded to the BOS for decisions on approval. Business applications will be the first applications to be sent.

7. BUSINESS APPLICATIONS:

- 7A. Will we support, the same submitter (or an affiliate, employee, other principal owner, etc.) to submit multiple ARPA applications to circumvent the “Up to \$25K” Rule.

Several applications have been received under more than one name but with the same owner/location. Discussion followed regarding how to handle these applications.

Motion by: G. Barden

to review and approve business applications up to \$25,000 per one location/owner with a deadline date of April 30, after that date any additional applications for that location/owner will still be considered.

Second by: J. Faski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Motion by: C. Maynard

to request an attestation prior to releasing grant funds to any business owner and that the business owner will use funds for purposes intended for the benefit of the business and within one year’s time, write a summary about how those fund benefited them as a business.

Second by: M. Mlodzinski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

- 7B. What if we exceed \$1 million in business applications?

~\$804K+ with same submitter with multiple Apps (35 Submissions) = Additional 7 full \$25K applications

~\$654+K with one app per submitter (28) Submissions = Additional 13 full \$25K Applications

Discussion about followed with the consensus it would be better to help as many businesses as possible.

- 7C. Setting a cut-off date to submit business applications.

April 30, 2022, was approved above.

8. ARPA APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY. TOWN CLAIMING FULL ARPA AMOUNT LOSS, ONE-TIME REPORT TO STATE, FLEXIBILITY WITH APPLICATION “ELIGIBILITY”

Discussion followed. Only a one time annual report is required due to a change in the ARPA regulations.

9. HOW IS THE BOS GOING TO EXPEDITE APPLICATION REVIEWS (WITH A FOCUS ON BUSINESS AND NON-PROFITS) AND WHAT MEETING WILL THE BOS BE REVIEWING ARPA APPLICATIONS.

S. Farber will review all applications previously reviewed by this commission. All business applications will be sent to the BOS ahead of time to be on their agenda for the BOS March 17, 2022, meeting. Non-profits will be next for review.

10. DISCUSS NEXT STEPS

Chair Koji will connect with S. Farber to review the process, all applications have moved to an available online share folder for public review. Next meeting will be to set caps on non-profit applications and to review those applications.

11. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Linda Pasternak stated the Norton Park Committee has exhausted two years seeking grants with very little success. One grant was given but expired due to a delay in the work getting started.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: J. Faski

to adjourn this Special Meeting.

Second by: M. Mlodzinski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Koji adjourned this meeting at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk