



Town of Clayton
ARPA Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Town Hall, 414 Main Street, Clayton

Attendance:

Chairperson:	Mr. Smith
Committee Members:	Mr. Carrow Ms. DeBenedictis Mr. Burnett
Councilors:	
Staff:	Mr. Hurlock, Town Foreman Melissa Knight, Recording Secretary Carl Hutson, Chief
Guest:	John Pridemore Robert Lightcap

Mr. Smith announced that Mr. Valentine is excused from tonight's meeting.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Old Business - None

3. New Business

a. \$2,000.00 Premium Pay for 2021

As discussed in the prior ARPA Meeting premium pay was broken down into three payments to employees in the amount of \$2,000.00. The first payment was for 2020 paid in 2021, this payment would be paid in 2022 for 2021 and the last payment would be disbursed in 2023. The reason for the request in late 2021 is so the payment is paid in January 2022. The employee will not have to pay into their pension, however the Town will be responsible for their portion to the employees' pension fund. The Town's portion will not be paid out of the ARPA Funds per the guidelines. Mr. Carrow - Will this affect any projects the Town has in the works to be paid through the ARPA? Mr. Smith stated this will not affect any projects; the next two agenda items if approved will be disbursed prior to the premium pay. Mr. Burnett – At what point do we stop giving premium pay? Mr. Smith stated the \$6,000.00 is equivalent to what other municipalities have done. The reason for disbursing the money in the three

payments is so the employees will not be hit hard with taxes. Mr. Burnett – Why not disburse before Christmas versus after? Mr. Smith stated he would like to have the disbursements annually.

Mr. Burnett made a motion to disburse the second payment of premium pay in the amount of \$2,000.00 per employee from the ARPA account to be paid out the first of 2022, Ms. DeBenedictis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

b. ARPA allocation to Clayton Fire Company

Mr. Smith stated this will be the first allocation to Clayton Fire Company with another allocation to be given at a later date. Mr. Smith stated that he is waiting on the report from the engineers regarding the sewer system. The State may assist the town with the ARPA allocation they received on projects that may be out of the scope of funding. We just need to find out if the Town of Clayton would need to exhaust our ARPA money prior to the state's assistance. The clearest way to disburse the money to the Clayton Fire Company would be for loss revenue. The loss revenue is \$125,000.00. Mr. Burnett – The Town has some uncertainties on what projects we have. What is your timeline? Mr. Pridemore – we want to be financially responsible. Whatever the town wants to allocate that would be fine with the Fire Company. The town has legal representation to consult with to ensure the disbursements are within the ARPA guidelines. The other item that is within the guidelines are the purchases for PPE during COVID. Mr. Smith has a figure in mind. Mr. Carrow stated I respect your decisions and your advice. Mr. Smith stated that he would like to allocate \$80,000.00 to the Fire Company for loss revenue. Mr. Burnett stated that he would like Mr. Hurlock's thoughts on the amount that Mr. Smith stated for the allocation of funds. Mr. Hurlock stated that pending the sale of the water system and the sewer infrastructure \$1.9 million is a drop in the bucket.

Mr. Carrow made a motion to take the Mayor's suggestion of an allocation to Clayton Fire Company in the amount of \$80,000.00 towards their loss revenue from the pandemic 2020, Mr. Burnett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hurlock asked if this has to be approved by legal counsel. Mr. Smith stated that he would wait until legal counsel has given the blessing of the disbursement.

c. ARPA allocation to Ambulance 64

Mr. Smith did speak with the president. He stated they have taken a harder hit during the pandemic. Mr. Smith suggested \$40,000.00 to be disbursed to Ambulance 64 to loss revenue. Mr. Carrow – could we allocate the money as loss revenue and/or COVID expenses.

Mr. Burnett made a motion to accept \$40,000.00 to American Legion Ambulance 64 from ARPA funds for loss revenue and/or additional expense related to COVID, Mr. Carrow seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Applying for State ARPA funding for sewer infrastructure

Mr. Smith stated the Governor has requested information on infrastructure that may be allocated from the State's ARPA allocation. There are no guarantees that the Town would receive additional funding. The Town has not received detailed information as to how much they will allocate. We are very close to submitting the sewer infrastructure to the state. Once the information is received from the engineers regarding the sewer the information will be forwarded to the State. Mr. Smith spoke with Steve at Duffield about the infrastructure bill that just passed this week to start working on a proposal for the bridge at S. Bassett and S. Rodney Street to be repaired and widened. There is going to be engineering expenditures.

e. Reybold Construction Technologies invoice to clean out Lift Station #1 cost of \$3,500.00

Mr. Smith stated Reybold cleaned out Lift Station #1. The main lift station is located behind Clayton Courts. It was pretty bad. This is an authorized ARPA expense. Just looking for a motion to approve the expenditure out of the ARPA account. This item is covered under the ARPA allocation.

Mr. Burnett made a motion to approve the invoice from Reybold for Lift Station #1 in the amount of \$3,500.00 out the ARPA account, Ms. DeBenedictis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next ARPA Meeting will be scheduled sometime in January 2022.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14, Mr. Burnett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.