



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Office of the Board of Selectmen

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) AD HOC COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First-floor Conference Room

To access a recording of this meeting: https://youtu.be/PAFSjUXQh_8

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the chair, Mr. Carlson.

Members Present: Bruce Carlson (Chair), Susan Esty (Vice-chair), Maureen Zavatone (Secretary), Kristen Roberts, and Brad Thorpe.

Members Absent: Judy Sullivan, Kacie Hand and Elizabeth McEvily.

Others Present: Carl Fortuna, Matthew Pugliese, Heather McNeil, Jennifer Donahue and Elizabeth Steffen.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 29, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes seconded by Ms. Esty. Mr. Thorpe then noted that at the last meeting he had asked how many Spanish-speaking families are in Old Saybrook and that Ms. McNeil had agreed to provide that information. He asked that the minutes be amended to reflect his request. All were in favor of approving the minutes as amended and the motion passed with three ayes and abstentions by Ms. Zavatone and Ms. Roberts as they had not been present at the last meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Carlson gave a recap of the decisions made to date on applications and the remaining issues to be resolved. He began with those applications that remain under review noting that in gathering additional information from these applicants he had focused on what fundraising losses had been incurred for nonprofits and what happened during COVID that has precipitated the need for recovery funds for small businesses.

Committee members discussed remaining applications.

- American Legion – no further discussion as Mr. Carlson is still awaiting more information; he will follow up again.

- Connecticut Cancer Foundation – appears to have a fundraising loss of \$14,000 from 2020; ready to recommend for referral to BOS for that amount.
- Fire Department – since a FEMA grant is still pending that may resolve this request it will remain on hold.
- Himalaya Café – additional information was obtained regarding potential COVID-related expenditures, a few figures are still pending; remain on hold until all figures are obtained.
- KUR Recovery Spa – additional information was provided; after discussion Mr. Carlson agreed to ask for net loss figures between 2019 and 2020 to be consistent with the criteria the committee has been using.
- Maritime Education Network – additional information provided was inadequate; awaiting further information.
- Old Saybrook Coastal Resiliency – on hold as this project may be able to be included as part of a larger town effort through a separate grant.
- Pier Blue – losses during mandatory closure period were discussed; committee members were inclined to approve \$50,000 but asked Mr. Carlson to clarify some figures first and report back at the next meeting.
- Sandra Roberts – no zoning issues exist with this request; on hold pending final cost estimates for work to be done.
- VFW – clarification of losses leaves a figure of \$36,786; ready to recommend for referral to BOS for that amount.
- YFS – committee discussed \$94,791 request and were ready to recommend for referral to BOS for that amount, however, concern over whether these estimates included all funding needed for the employment pieces of the request (FICA, etc.) caused committee members to ask for an updated figure reflecting all expenses so that the request could be fully funded.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Carlson reviewed the recommended funding to date noting that all funds will likely not be expended from this first round of applications. He suggested that the committee be prepared to talk about what a phase II for funding disbursement might look like. Committee members emphasized using any additional money to make the town better and/or more resilient for future crises.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 5:52 p.m. Ms. Esty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on October 25, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Town Hall first-floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue