

**ARPA PROJECT
SELECTION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 04, 2022**

Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Chris Bott, Vice Mayor
Denise Bowden, Councilwoman
James M. West

Members Absent:

John H. Tarr

Staff Present:

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Others Present:

Call to Order

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Adoption

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

Review of ARPA Nonprofit Rules

Town Manager Tolbert explained the Nonprofit rules for ARPA. He advised the Treasury decided to give a standard allowance for lost revenue. He explained the calculator and formula the Treasury gives and has determined a standard allowance of \$10 million. He explained further that the Town could count all shortfalls as loss of revenue which opens the door to use for anything as a normal government function. He added that purchasing police cars is a normal government function, the compressor they just purchased along with the Cropper Street project. He further reviewed the non-profit guidelines.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if they are allowed to give to non-profits that are not in this locality.

Town Manager Tolbert hasn't seen anything that would prevent the Town from doing that. He stated that the question is, can a nonprofit receive more funds than they can actually show as a loss. He added that no one he has talked with can answer this question. It is up to the NEU to read the guidelines and decide whether they want to do this. He mentioned that when they come in to audit the ARPA funds, it's up to the Town to prove it was done correctly. He also added that the first answer from this question is they don't think so. He stated that the Town cannot use more funds than they receive under loss of revenue. He further explained that if a nonprofit receives funding from

several different sources and all of those sources are under loss revenue, could they total more than the allowance, and the response was they do not think so. Whatever grant or loan that is given has to be appropriate and measurable. You cannot give something that is disproportionate to what your able.

Councilwoman Bowden also asked about the donation to the ESCADV. She read the request from ESCADV to the other townships in the county. She asked if they qualify because they're doing something new.

Town Manager Tolbert responded that it would fall under the capital improvement, and he hasn't seen capital improvements addressed in the guidance for nonprofits or businesses. In the Interim Final Rule, stated that if there was a capital improvement that was budgeted and scrubbed, you could use the ARPA money for that capital improvement project. However, this doesn't apply because this is a new project.

Mr. Landsberger interjected that in their case they lost shelters because they couldn't modify the structure to allow social distancing.

Town Manager Tolbert advised he has seen this as it applies to nonprofits to the primary recipients but not to sub-recipients. He added that the Final Rule states that it will not contradict any guidance that is in the Interim.

Review of Current Approved ARPA Funded Projects

Town Manager Tolbert showed the approved projects.

Consider ESCADV Request

Mr. David Landsberger, read the letter he presented to Council for the Eastern Coalition Against Domestic Violence requesting funding assistance to build a shelter, and advocacy office called Hope Harbor. He gave the total cost of the project; the work began last fall, and they hope to be done next winter. He explained the guidelines for ARPA expenses and the services Hope Harbor will provide. He hopes they consider investing in this project. He stated they will have outreach projects to be a resource for the service area.

Ms. Shelly, the ESCADV Director, advised approximately 10% of their clients come from Chincoteague. They have partnerships with the hotels on the Island for shelters. They hope to extend training to the local hotels and restaurants as well. She read information on domestic violence and the stay-at-home orders, which may have reduced the ability of individuals of domestic violence to access services. She also read a portion of the ARPA guidelines they fell pertains to this facility. She explained that when they were locked down, they had a tiny facility housing 16 people in less than 1,000 square feet and was not possible with COVID mitigations. They want to be able to provide these services in future situations. The new shelter will have communal space with family privacy.

Ms. Jenny Parker, advised she grew up about 15 miles away from here and considers Chincoteague her home away from here. She asked Council to consider a donation for

this purpose. She explained that victims of domestic violence need a place to find refuge and the courage to start over again.

Mr. Landsberger, advised that Accomack and Northampton have contributed.

Mr. West asked if they were 50% of the target.

Mr. Landsberger responded that between the pledges and donations, they are. He advised the facility has been purchased and they have enough money to finish the 1st building. He commented further on the plans and the current facility.

Mr. West asked if there have been other requests from nonprofits.

Town Manager West advised he has received nothing official.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if they were going to have an application process as they have done before.

Town Manager Tolbert advised they would.

Committee Member Comments

There was none.

Closed Meeting

Closed Meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711 A,5 of the Code of Virginia for discussion of potential business opportunities.

Mr. West motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to go into a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711 A,5 of the Code of Virginia for discussion of potential business opportunities. Unanimously approved.

Certification of Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia.

Mr. West motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to certify that to the best of each Committee Member's knowledge:

- 1. Only public business lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements was discussed and**
- 2. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered.**

Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Mr. West motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adjourn. Unanimously approved.