



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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ARPA Committee
Town of St Johnsbury
Monday November 15, 2021- 9:00AM

Minutes

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Scott Beck, Chad Whitehead, Frank Empsall, Joe Kasprzak, Patrick Shattock, Ken Hammer, Jenna O'Farrell, Gillian Sewake, Nick Anzalone, Adam Kane, David Reynolds, Scott Campbell

Public: Paul Berlejung, Stacy Jewell

Open Meeting

Public Comment:

- Paul Berlejung addressed the committee and expressed concern over members of the committee being non-residents and the diversity of the committee and was interested in how the committee would gather public input.

Committee Introductions:

- Members of the committee introduced themselves.

Review of ARPA Eligible Expenses:

- Chad Whitehead reviewed the ARPA Eligibility and noted that there are several resources available through the Leagues of Cities and Towns.
- Funds need to be obligated by December 2024
- Funds need to be expensed by December 2026
- ARPA 's intent is to assist the country to recover from the impacts of COVID, and to rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy. It will be this committee's responsibility to gather input from all reaches of our community, especially those that may feel marginalized.

Public Input & Committee Process Discussion

- The committee discussed requesting funds from the Select Board to hire a facilitator to assist with public engagement including utilizing existing regularly scheduled meetings, actively engaging into neighborhood communities and outreach to those community members to ensure all of our community is included and welcome to provide input for this committee to evaluate and develop a spending plan for the Select Board to consider.
- The committee needs to be clear and concise on what are eligible and what are not eligible expenses.
- The committee needs to develop decision making criteria.

- The group should develop a list of projects that are important to the Town separate from funding criteria and evaluate to determine what priorities are, and assess for eligibility of ARPA funds, vs Infrastructure, Build Back Better or other funding sources.
- It will be important to understand what funds are already being pursued, and if/how local funds may support and improve competitiveness.
- Chad will reach out to NVDA, NCIC, VLCT and the NEK Collaborative to determine what resources they may have to assist with facilitation of community discussions and report back to the committee.
- A follow up meeting was scheduled for November 29, 2021 at 9:00 am