

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND COMMITTEE**

Wednesday September 29, 2021
10:00 a.m. – Via Zoom

PRESENT: ARP Fund Committee Members: Joe Pryor, Barbara Herbst, Diane Beebe, Gordon Ridgway / Three Members of the Public

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

COMMUNICATIONS: None

REVIEW COVID SITUATION: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed the formation of the Cornwall ARP Fund Committee and provided an update on the Covid Situation. Cases in Cornwall are decreasing, and Cornwall is back to “grey” status. First Selectman Ridgway noted that the Governor’s emergency authority has been extended by the State Legislature. Emergency Management Services Director Diane Beebe informed that 70% of new Covid cases are occurring in un-vaccinated individuals. The Pfizer booster shot has been approved, and is distinguished from the “3rd shot” for certain immunocompromised individuals. Joyce Hart provided a PPE update, and noted that the ambulance is OK on N95 mask supplies at the current time.

ARPA FUNDS: The Committee discussed organizing the requests into a spreadsheet before awarding any more funds to the applicants. Board of Finance Chair, Joe Pryor, stated that the application from the Little Guild Animal Shelter looked complete, and noted that there was no reason to wait if an application was ready. First Selectman Ridgway indicated that it would be good to see everything that’s out there before moving forward in the next month or so. EMS Director Diane Beebe agreed with the First Selectman’s approach. First Selectman Ridgway suggested creating a November 1 or November 5, 2021 deadline for the first round of applications. Board of Finance Chair Joe Pryor suggested a deadline of December 31, 2021 for the first round of applications. First Selectman Ridgway preferred a deadline of November 1st so that the Committee could consider the first round of applications sooner. First Selectman Ridgway also mentioned using the ARP Funds to purchase some emergency medical equipment. Diane Beebe emphasized the importance of communicating the qualifying requirements to potential applicants. First Selectman Ridgway asked if there was a general consensus to set November 5, 2021 as the application deadline for the first round of award disbursements. EMS Director Diane Beebe agreed. Board of Finance Chair Joe Pryor noted that it would be a good idea to explore the possibility of making ARP Fund awards to essential volunteers and front-line workers. Finance Director Barbara Herbst stated that Joe Pryor’s suggestion was an allowable use of the funding. Cornwall Town Treasurer, Richard Bramley agreed with the approach of considering applications in rounds / batches.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Caroline Nastro urged the Committee to increase outreach informing the public about the ARP Fund program.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant

