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**TOWN OF RANDOLPH
ARPA FUNDING COMMITTEE
MARCH 29, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES**

****NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY ONLY; ALL ATTENDEES LISTED
WERE ON ZOOM***

*****This draft is intended for open meeting law compliance only, and will be revised to include additional details.***

Members Present: Perry Armstrong, chair; Ramsey Papp; Mary Richter; Maria Puglisi; Michael Abadi; Matt Murawski; Jeff Grout.

Staff Present: Trevor M. Lashua, Town Manager

Public/other Present: Katie Buckley, VLCT ARPA Coordinator; Gary Dir.

Perry called the meeting to order.

There was no public comment.

Ramsey moved to approve the minutes. Jeff seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Michael moved to approve the agenda. Ramsey seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

A brief introduction, Katie Buckley, the ARPA Coordinator for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) presented a slide deck walking through the provisions of the law, the final rule from the U.S. Treasury Department, and guidelines or other best practices. Katie referenced the deadlines to obligate funds (12/31/24) and to spend them (12/31/26).

Funds may be used in some situations to match other Federal program funds, such as certain IJA (the Federal infrastructure bill) grants.

Katie spoke about the ability to claim, as a one-time action, all of the ARPA funds under the \$10 million lost revenue provision. This provides the most flexibility in use.

Matt asked to what extent the use of funds should be tied to impacts from the pandemic or to increase resiliency and response to any future events. Katie advised about the connections, and encouraged the Town to think about long-term impacts when considering use of funds – to make investments in the future. The final rule does allow for a broader array of options than the more limited set of rules preceding it.

Michael asked about loan or grant programs, and whether the funds used for those would be considered obligated or spent at the applicable deadlines. There was discussion about the funky rules for programmatic use, and discussion of potential ways to deploy funds for those uses.

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48 There is likely to be additional clarification on that question following the first reporting period
49 in April 2022. There is a possibility, for example, that claiming the standard allowance (all
50 revenue as lost revenue) will serve as both the obligation and expenditure of the funds.

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52 There was discussion about rubrics for decision-making, such as those used in Westford,
53 Brandon, and Barre City.

54
55 The committee discussion participation, particularly the possibility of Townwide vote or series
56 of events such as the R3 process featured.

57
58 There was discussion about the right guardrails and guidance for intake, discussion.

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60 The R3 process may have identified potential projects years ago, and those should feature a
61 quick re-examination for applicability now.

62
63 The committee discussed a meeting schedule, and when to next meet. The 2nd Wednesday of
64 each month will generally be the target date. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 4/13,
65 at 5:30 p.m.

66
67 *Maria moved to adjourn. Mary seconded. The motion passed 7-0.*