

ARPA Committee
April 27, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Clerk's office/Zoom hybrid

Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk opened the ARPA Committee meeting at 6:09.

Members Present: Lisa Larivee, Dave Bennion, Paula Tremblay, Yvon Dandurand, Deb Grennon, Justin Rainville

Guests: Pam Greene, Stacy Godin, Laura Larose, Stephanie Ho,

- Lisa reviewed the Ed Jones investment made in Nov 2022 with \$200,000 of the funds with a 6 month CD at 4.5%. Will renew on May 16th for another 6 months as there are no projects planned in the near future. Reviewed the funds allocated & spent to date of \$115,720 and \$91,499. Used funds for grader down payment and recreation shed costs, school generator repair, ambulance contract.
- Lisa has applied for funding with Bernie Sanders, Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds for a solar farm install to provide power to the municipal buildings and funding for the water well system project for the village. We will not know until Nov-Dec if we will be chosen for funding.
- Reviewed the top projects chosen with the survey by the community at the August 2022 gathering; Grader funding, recreation shed project, generator at school, gazebo/band stand replacement, solar farm, fire alarm systems in all town buildings, water system well, child care study.
- Discussed the possible use of some funds to assist with payment of the lift/elevator replacement this is out of service. The cost is quoted at \$40-42,000. Lisa is applying for grant funds that would require a 50% match. The furnace also needs to be replaced and there were town monies budgeted for that, investigating options of oil, LP or heat pumps.
- Deb-would like to apply for a planning grant to study the child care concerns in the community. She will come to the office to discuss and assist with the grant.
- Paula-Rec Dept would like to strongly encourage consideration of funds for a phone to be installed at the rec fields. There was a pretty serious injury to a Franklin player at the Highgate arena during practice a few weeks ago, 911 needed to be called and an ambulance arrived quickly to take them to the hospital. Had that happened here there would be a large delay in contacting emergency help with no phone on sight or cell service. The quote from Franklin Tel to install a phone is \$6400 to set 4 poles and cable. Pam G suggested contacting the Felco Foundation for an application for grant funds to assist with this cost.
- Discussed the gazebo/band stand replacement and what that would look like. Dave advised was just in the early stage of planning, want to make ADA compliant, either on ground or with the same base and an earthen ramp. Need to get a design and quote.
- Justin-what is the cost of the solar array? John Ho had quoted approx. \$60,000 for a small one that would stay under the requirements of the state permits. Could do multiple for each individual meters/building. Proposed cost of \$180,000 for three individual arrays with CDS funds. Dave concern is the ROW access, would need to be worked out.

- Justin advised the fire dept project would not be feasible or realistic as it would use all the funds and more to complete, no longer considering.
- Discussed the digital sign that the fire dept had been considering but did not have a location to install, so come to the town for a combined effort. Have received grant funds for 50% of the cost of \$30,000, fire dept considering the other share. Need to have a public forum discussion on if the sign is wanted by the community and user access. Pam-need to keep a place for the Christmas tree to continue to be installed. Yvon-how large is the sign? Will be 72 x 104, similar to Highgate, would propose to be about one foot off the ground. Library trustees have discussed at their meeting.
- Justin-need to start a momentum toward getting quotes for real numbers to make decisions on a few projects. Have just been reviewing ideas, the Dec 2024 date will come quickly.
- Lisa stated the town has been working with Rural Development on holding a community work forum for planning of our town vision for the future, like Highgate did last year. They have approved funding to do this work study with the town, will have a kick-off meeting in July. Hope that will give us some insight for the future vision.
- Stephanie-would like to suggest funds for the power at the rec fields as a priority for the community and could open up a lot of future events and possible things. Paula advised were quoted \$12,544 in Sept 2022 by VEC and the \$6,400 for the telephone. Prices will continue to increase. Have received \$1750 in grant funds to assist with the costs. Rec will attend the next selectboard meeting to request funds and discuss.

Next meeting of the committee will be in July, date TBD with the Rural Development kick-off, in person and via Zoom. Adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk
 April 28, 2023