**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 7, 2022**

**TOWN COUNCIL**: Greg Welch President

 Edward (Skip) Ash Vice President

 Pamela Davis Councilman

 James Sample Councilman

 John Wright Secretary/Treasurer

**TOWN EMPLOYEES**: Cheryl Lynch Town Clerk

**OTHERS:** Robbie Murray Amy Baker Sheridan

 Kerin Magill Priscilla Schoolfield

 Valerie Dugdale Mike Dugdale

 Robert Murray Ronald Hall

 Bonnie Elliott

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Greg called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Greg noted the American Rescue Plan workshop was called to discuss how we can spend the funds

and hear recommendations from the residents.

Greg noted the town will be allocated $444,000.00 and we have received $244,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan. We have until 2024 to allocate funds and 2026 to spend the funds.

Greg noted there are four categories for allowable uses:

Public Health Economic: Rent, Mortgage assistance

Premium Pay: This would qualify from January 2020 to July 2021

Revenue Loss:

Investments: Water, Sewer and Broadband infrastructure

Greg noted sent five project requests to Barnes and Thornburg

Storm Water

Premium Pay

Hot water at the Park Bathrooms

Town Hall upgrades for Audio and Computer system

Valerie noted is the premium pay for essential workers.

Greg noted yes that would be for the employees who worked during the pandemic

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Greg noted he has seen other municipalities award premium pay in the amount of $2,000.00

John noted Carol Houck completed a survey on municipalities who were going to offer premium pay

and who was not.

John read the ones for Sussex County:

Town of Henlopen Acre- No

Bethany Beach- No

Rehoboth Beach- No

Dewey Beach – Yes

Millville- Yes

Seaford- No

Fenwick Island – No

Georgetown- No

South Bethany- No

Greg noted they could give up to $13.00 per hour not to exceed $25,000.00.

Skip noted we weren’t open to the public for a few months, but the residents were able to drop

off their payment at the door or pay online. Also installed a plexiglas window so we could open to the

public,

Greg noted they come up with a final rule to elect up to a 10 million dollar loss revenue non calculating.

Greg noted would be nice to use the funds to put a new roof on Town Hall.

Greg noted the attorney said the town could use the funds for Storm Drainage if it meets the EPA standards and don’t match the state for any funding, hot water for park bathrooms, premium pay,

Upgrade audio and computers in Town Hall.

Robbie noted maybe use the funds to hire an electrician to repair the electric at the park.

Robbie noted as President of the Fire Company and our finances have taken a hit. The fire companies

Revenue sources were down by $113,000.00. This would include ambulance billing, hall rental,

individual and business donations and ways and means.

The fire company is looking into purchasing a new apparatus which would cost about one million

Dollars. The equipment will be an engine and a rescue.

Robbie noted to the Council if they would like to use some of their ARPA funds in the amount of

$50,000.00 to help equip the new apparatus.

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Robbie noted the Town of Millville will be donating one hundred thousand dollars to Millville

Fire Company.

Valerie noted a person who wasn’t working during the pandemic could the ARPA funds be used

to pay their property taxes.

John noted the funds can’t be used to pay for property taxes.

Valerie noted is that a tax ditch that runs under Reed and Honolulu Rd.

Skip noted will be discussing at the Council meeting the issue at the end of Reed and Honolulu Rd.

Skip noted can’t use ARPA funds for a matching fund project.

Skip noted will be meeting with Soil Conservation on the Reed and Honolulu Rd project.

Mike Dugdale noted when the town sold the water plant Artesian noted they would be replacing water

Lines in town.

Mike Dugdale noted he still has a problem with yellow water at his home. He has called

Artesian and complained about his yellow water and all they have done is flush the hydrant.

Robbie noted the town should ask Artesian to attend a Council meeting and discuss water

issues from the residents.

Skip noted don’t want to repair sidewalks until Artesian replaces

Greg noted talked with Ken Branner about low water pressure and the change in water rate

billing. Artesian has taken the water tower out of service. The water comes from the Dagsboro

 water plant.

Greg noted he will contact Ken Branner about the yellow water on McNeal.

Robert Murray noted when Artesian bought the plant they bought the pipes.

Robert Murray noted when is Artesian going to repair the leak on Frankford Avenue.

Cheryl noted she contacts Artesian once a month and remind them about the leak on Frankford Avenue.

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**ADJOURN:**

Pam made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm and was seconded by Jimmy

Motion was unanimous

**RESPECTFULLY**

**Cheryl A Lynch**

**Town Clerk**