

Minutes are from September 13, 2021
TOWN OF CANAAN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
~~MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021~~ @ Immediately Following BOF Meeting;
108 MAIN STREET, FALLS VILLAGE, CT

Attendees: Selectmen: Greg Marlowe and Dave Barger
Other Attendees: Members of the public

Meeting called to order at 7:20pm

Public comments by the following:
Tracy Atwood, Colter Rule, Daly Reville, Denise Cohen, Amy Wynn, Felicia Jones

Reports

Secretary Reports: **MOTION by Marlowe, seconded by Barger to approve the following meeting minutes, Regular Meeting of August 9, 2021; unanimous.**

Tax Collector & Treasurer reports: **MOTION by Barger, seconded by Marlowe to accept as presented the July Tax Collector report, the Annual, FYE June 30th & the August 2021 Treasurers Reports; unanimous.**

Communications:

- Thank you letter from Chore Services for town grant
- Laura Werntz, attached

First Selectman's Report:

- Use of ARPA funds plan, survey of town residents for ideas, distillation of same, creating a plan, discussion within the town, but recognizing that any ideas are advisory and that the final decision rests with the BOS with consultation with the BOF. Survey itself is an expense of the special govt. fund set-aside. All funds are held in a separate account by Federal mandate. Received 155K to date. Must use funds w/in four years.
- Resignation of Tracey Wilson. Position to be advertised with a listing of duties.
- Start looking for candidates for Mary's Town Clerk position, again advertised with a listing of duties, recognizing that this may take a long time to fill the position.
- Fixing our IT.
- Request for a rental agreement renegotiation for the 107 restaurant lease from Szabina and Adam
- Consideration of Timolats request to be given at BOF Meeting
- School project request by Robin Faust(New Kellogg Principal) in consideration of the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Kristin Panzer resigned and Laura Wadsworth has taken over as secretary. Getting kids involved in community service.
- Posted Tufts study of aging on town website
- Resident request to extend ventilation on 107 Main to redirect venting away from residents property. Will get cost to extend venting height.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tax Refunds: **MOTION by Marlowe, seconded by Barger to approve the refund for 315 Music Mountain Rd, for \$2,546.87. Property should have had Forest Land designation at time of billing, Assessor corrected creating an overpayment; unanimous.**
- b. Survey about ARPA funds(information attached): Send out a survey to residents to get input. Amy Wynn to help BOS with the development of the survey to send to residents

Agenda additions by consensus: New business, c. Tracy Wilson resignation & d. Equity Group Carol Taylor

Towns can put a moratorium on Marijuana Growers license – several towns have done this. Should go to Planning & Zoning agenda; and put on the BOS agenda for October

- c. Resignation: **Selectmen accept with great regrets, Tracy Wilson's resignation by consensus. She has done a phenomenal job over the last few years and brought us light years ahead.**
- d. FV Equity Group: looking for approval of public space, Beebe Hill Rd, Crosswalk – attached is grant/project information.

MOTION by Marlowe, seconded by Barger the BOS are in favor of using the Beebe Hill Rd crosswalk for the potential use of an art project in creating a new crosswalk/welcome mat based on obtaining grants/funding;

Amendment MOTION by Marlowe, seconded by Barger that the Falls Village Equity Group as the entity to oversee the project and funding; unanimous.

MOTION by Barger, seconded by Marlowe, meeting adjourned; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Juchert-Derungs, recording secretary.

ARPA

1. The plan is described in the attached memo.
2. The procedure that is to be followed is listed below:
 - a. We will send out a survey to all residents within the town to solicit suggestions on use of the funds. Because of the continued threat of Covid, we believe it would be prudent to go this route instead of a public forum. After the surveys have been received, we will prepare for a town forum to consider ideas.
 - b. The amount of the funds available for use was \$311,600 approximately of which the town has received the first tranche of \$155,817.98. The second tranche will be received in the second quarter of 2022, probably in May or June. We have spent \$42,011 on the Septic system for 107 Main of the first tranche, leaving a balance of \$269,589.
 - c. The money must be used within 4 years.
 - d. Note that the Town Selectmen, in conjunction with the Board of Finance, has the final authority to choose where the funds will be spent. The surveys and the subsequent town forum, either public or by Zoom depending on the COVID situation, are only advisory in nature.

Henry W. Todd

First Selectman for the Board of Selectmen

September 13, 2021

DRAFT - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Canaan/Falls Village

Congress has passed the ARPA funding plan to help American cities and towns recover from pandemic related hardships, but also to *build back better* and infuse funding that will future-proof our county.

I. SOME THINGS TO NOTE:

- Funding will be awarded based on population and will be disbursed in two payment cycles. There will be an additional funding awarded for schools and infrastructure projects. Although towns are encouraged to use some of the ARP funds to make larger infrastructure projects “shovel ready”.
- There are three general areas in which funds can be used.
 1. **Responding to the negative impacts of the COVID pandemic.** This includes assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, as well as aid to affected industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality.
 2. **Providing government services previously cut due to pandemic related revenue shortfalls**
 3. **Making needed investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure**
- Eligible uses are separated into 5 categories: (Please see full toolkit for details)
 - a) Support public health response
 - b) Address negative economic impact
 - c) Investment in water and sewer
 - d) Broadband Infrastructure
 - e) Replace loss revenue
- Towns have 4-years to spend the money
- Communities are asked to work Equity and Inclusion into their proposed projects such as affordable housing, childcare and pre-K programs and municipal Equity training.
- Projects that support Economic Development are favored.
- Significant accounting and reporting will be necessary to ensure compliance and the statutory eligible uses will need to be verified. However, it is allowable to use some of the ARPA funding to hire employees or consultants to assist with the planning, administration and reporting.
- Towns may use ARPA funding to hire a coordinator to support ARPA activities or other consultants.

II. COMMUNITY INPUT IS ENCOURAGED (Although not required):

- Some communities are creating a new committee or using their Economic Development Commission or Committee to coordinate community outreach.
- A survey is recommended as tool to get quantifiable data/input and be more inclusive.

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III. POSSIBLE FALLS VILLAGE ARPA PROJECTS:

1) DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -

- a) Revitalize blighted Historic Firehouse on Railroad Street to a 1-br affordable housing rental unit and retail business space below with public parking. This would require some “infrastructure” work and extension of sidewalks. The overall improvement to the downtown area would be significant, and the rental income would support long-term town sustainability.
- b) Consider using some of the ARPA funding to assist existing town non-profits with Board Development and Strategic Planning.
- c) Consider an in-town grant program that will award grants to local non-profits that provide Arts and Culture programming. Inclusive in the grant application would be a) How this project serves the community for the long-term and b) How you intend to validate the goals have been achieved.

2) CHILDCARE – use a portion of the money to improve the building and grounds at the FV Childcare Center, and perhaps “capacity building” with an extra staff person. Additional staff would allow for additional children. This may contribute to building a plan to make the FV CCC sustainable and self-funding. This would fulfill both allocating money to childcare services and improving future sustainability.

3) AFFORDABLE HOUSING -

- a) Investigate possibility of putting a duplex or triplex on any municipal owned property by using ARPA funding for perk and pre-development engineering. If viable, use ARPA funding for infrastructure and pre-fabricated construction.
- b) Fund a study to establish affordable housing in other municipally owned buildings.
- c) Consider using part of ARPA to hire consultant to work with P&Z to help create an incentive program that will encourage affordable housing as part of all new development in exchange for property tax incentives.

4) CLIMATE RESILLIANCE & DISASTER PREVENTION:-

- a) Consider using part of ARPA funding for engineering a Watershed & Drainage Plan to combat flooding during storms which seriously impact certain areas of our town and currently have no mechanism for funding
- b) Consider using part of ARPA to assess and replace non-functional culverts to prevent flooding

5) INFRASTRUCTURE-

- a) Consider using part of ARPA funding to make Cobble Road Bridge Project “Shovel Ready” and eligible for the larger ARPA Infrastructure Grant funding. Not sure this use qualifies.
- b) Consider using part of ARPA funding for a septic and water system for business area on Railroad Street

DRAFT - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Canaan/Falls Village

- c) Consider a using infrastructure dollars to accelerate Affordable Housing on town owned land.

6) CAPACITY BUILDING-

- Consider using part of ARPA funding to implement a review of job descriptions and salaries at Town Hall (with outside contractor) and bring current jobs to market rate to insure long-term sustainability.
- Consider using part of ARPA funding to bring on any new positions that past budget constraints have prevented. Some positions to consider would be Economic Development, Communications and IT.

7) BROADBAND –

8) PARKING-

- Consider using funds for a long-term plan for reducing congestion in town through the addition of parking lots.

Selectmen Selectmen

From: laura werntz <laurawerntz@gmail.com> on behalf of laura werntz
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Canaan Selectmen; Greg Marlowe; David Barger
Cc: Daly Reville
Subject: Please read the attached legal notice into the minutes
Attachments: Doc - Jul 27 2021 - 08-36.pdf

Dear Board of Selectmen- For Public Comment. Please read the attached legal notice into the minutes. It is a copy of the legal notice placed in the Republican American by our Planning and Zoning Board. It lists the conditions that would need to be met before the proposed project on River Road would receive site approval.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Werntz

LEGAL NOTICE

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To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that on October 22, 2020 the Canaan
LEGAL NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that on October 22, 2020 the Canaan / Falls Village Planning and Zoning Commission approved a Site Plan Application for the Falls Village Housing Trust, River Road Homes Development, on River Road map #1 lot 3-6, siting regulation sections: 4.4 Incentive Housing Overlay Zone / 9. B. Site Plan Requirements, with the following conditions. 1. The project be bonded adequately to ensure completion as per plan. 2. The project conforms to the plan and specifications as prepared by Civil One Engineering and Bailey Architects dated August 6, 2020, and conforms to all relevant zoning regulations. 3. Prior to Zoning Permit being issued acceptable potable water from tested wells as approved and certified by State DEEP drinking water division, as well as creation of a DPH approved community water system. 4. Approved maintenance plan accepted by the Administrative Agency. 5. Set hours of construction Monday through Saturday 7am-5pm. 6. Zoning approval conditioned upon other various approvals to be met from other commissions and agencies (including but not limited to the Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission, Torrington Area Health District, Housatonic River Commission, State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health) as listed in the routing sheet for the River Road Homes project. 7. Zoning approval conditioned upon the lot line approval of the Habitat parcel conveying a 10.07 acres portion to the FVHT. The owner of the property is Habitat for Humanity.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-8.”

R-A October 30, 2020

Draft

Call for Teaching Artist Proposals for Creative Expression Workshop Addressing Social Equity and Identity

The Falls Village Equity Project is seeking a teaching artist skilled in visual arts to develop and run a series of creative expression workshops exploring issues of identity, equality, and inclusion in the Spring of 2022. This program will culminate in the design and execution of a unique Rainbow Crosswalk, involving the community, to coincide with the June celebration of Pride Month and the Juneteenth national holiday.

A grant is available through Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development/Office of the Arts (DECD/COA) for funding art projects addressing social issues including equity and racial justice, community development, and empowerment of LGBTQ communities. Grants are in the amount of \$1000, \$2500, and \$5000. The selected candidate for the project will be aided by the Falls Village Equity Project in writing the grant for successful application (deadline December 1, 2021) and assisting the artist in the required post-project reporting to DECD/COA for the grant. If awarded the grant, the selected artist will be paid by DECD/COA to carry out the project as proposed, to include artists fee and project expenses (including materials/supplies).

Grant details can be found at the following web address:

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Arts-and-Culture/Funding_Opportunities/Artists-Respond

The Grant Time Line:

- The CT DECD grant application window is from October 1 through December 1, 2021.
- Grant awards will be announced in mid-February 2022 for projects taking place between March and August 2022.

For this project:

- Candidate proposals due to Falls Village Equity Project – September 27, 2021
- FV Equity Group selects final candidate by October 1, 2021
- Candidate and Falls Village Equity Project develop and submit grant no later than December 1, 2021

If awarded:

- Workshops would be scheduled monthly in March, April, and May 2022.
- The community-involved creation of the crosswalk, under the guidance of the Teaching Artist, would occur in June 2022.
- Note: If Teaching Artist is not awarded a grant from DECD/COA, Falls Village Equity Project will attempt to obtain funding from other sources, and if successful, will go forward with the project.

The ideal candidate should have experience in teaching in the arts for a broad range of ages, backgrounds, and abilities, and be able to ensure a welcoming, safe, environment in which to educate and explore personal identity through creative expression.

Candidates must be residents of Connecticut.

The Falls Village Equity Project is an initiative of the Falls Village Community Development Corporation and fulfills a SustainableCT certification requirement. The Falls Village Equity Project is an open group of Falls Village residents whose mission is to build community in Falls Village. The group is committed to promoting equity — where all residents' voices and experiences are valued — regardless of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, religious beliefs, or differing abilities.

Candidates should submit a

- proposal describing
 - focus and approach to workshops,
 - plan/outline to involve community members, and
 - implementation of crosswalk art with the community;
- project budget; and
- artists/teaching resume

by September 27, 2021 to FVEquityGroup@gmail.com