

## **ARPA Meeting Approved Minutes**

8/31/2021 7:00 pm

Town Hall 33155 Hemingway Ave., Stacy, MN 55079

R. Keller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the pledge was recited.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

The Township has until December 24, 2024 to spend the funds. The Township will receive around \$300k and there is a need for Broadband and cybersecurity. J. Eischens said that it will be expensive to add fiber optics. C. Cagle said that the County hired someone to do a study that should be ready in January. T. Nelson said that the SLFD has a problem with their well which should fit under water and sewer upgrades. The building is owned by Lent.

R. Keller said he does not see a reason for premium pay or essential pay. C. Cagle said to put money away for employees for COVID pay.

Public Health and Economic: does not pertain.

Community Support: C. Cagle said it provides opportunities for the Township to provide grants to nonprofits. The Lions still gave to Parks, but did not raise money and they could apply for a grant. It would be a public grant that would be allocated specifically to nonprofits who wanted to apply. The Board discussed specific nonprofits that may want to apply.

Childcare: R. Keller said that it might be something the Township may be interested in. The Township does not have any public childcare facilities. J. Eischens noted that Lent does not have a school system. A scholarship could be set up for kids. C. Cagle suggested setting up a program at the Hall with a teacher to allow students without Broadband to use the Internet at the Hall.

T. Nelson said Broadband is the number one need of the community. If we are going to invest in Broadband, it is going to use it all of the funds. J. Eischens said there are other options. Towers can be put in. North Branch put them in for \$350k. D. Milles said his son has Starlink Internet for \$99 a month. He is going to send the office information on it.

Hospitality: J. Eischens said with County Road 17 opening up, we are going to have more opportunities for hospitality. C. Cagle said we can account for lost revenues for 2020. D. Milles talked about community gatherings and support services at the Hall. S. Sinna asked about the community comp plan survey and how that fits into this. People mainly wanted Broadband.

Household assistance: C. Cagle said if we opt to set up assistance for nonprofits it would go through this.

Medical Care: Nothing

Public Health and Safety: R. Keller said PPE and ventilation for the SLFD. T. Nelson said they are going to get two quotes for HVAC and C. Cagle and R. Keller will follow up on their well.

Small Business: R. Keller said yes. C. Cagle said the County has been taking good care of the businesses that have been requesting it. There is the Economic Department and Chamber of Commerce.

Revenue Loss: 2020 Hall Rentals. C. Cagle said that everything is done that was planned in the Hall. We need to rent it out. She sees Hall rentals going up.

They will look at satellite and J. Eischens is going to look at Towers.

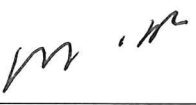
S. Sinna said with Broadband, there is only a small pot of money. In her opinion, the pot of money is too small to be helping people with grants. She is wondering if residents can make recommendations at the Annual Meeting. T. Nelson said we do not need to bring the items for the Fire Department to the Annual meeting because they are a priority. S. Sinna said she would like the other topics brought to the Annual Meeting.

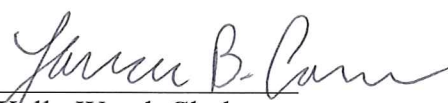
R. Keller said all of the responsibility falls on us. J. Eischens asked S. Sinna if you are asking the Board to prioritize what we just went over or do you want to have more of a say in where the numbers are going. S. Sinna said if you have money left over, bring it back to the residents for input on ideas as to what is most important to them. C. Cagle said what is left over after the essentials could be brought to the Annual Meeting. T. Nelson said he is having a hard time with the Annual Meeting thing because you are going to have so many differing opinions. J. Eischens said a lot of people are going to want Internet. J. Eischens said they are looking at Genesis as an affordable option. Internet options were discussed.

D. Stiers said bringing it to the Annual Meeting should be an option. He is afraid what may happen when the general population finds out. It was posted on the website. If Broadband is not feasible, we need to show some other options because it may look like the Board is trying to hide something. B. Seekon said he is open to bringing it to the Annual Meeting. T. Nelson said he is the only one who said he was not for it. C. Cagle said they have been transparent. D. Stiers agreed. D. Stiers said the roads went to the Annual Meeting. S. Sinna said the public would like to see the Board's priorities. She would be like to see a presentation. If the funds are not being used for Broadband, we need to work together. D. Stiers said you have until 2024 and the Annual Meeting is coming up fairly soon. It is better to do it right. It could be next year. R. Keller said PPE for the SLFD; gloves, masks, etc. could be purchased. C. Cagle added that a possible extra set of turnout gear could be purchased to have while their first set is in the wash. It was decided to ask the SLFD what their needs are.

**B. Seekon made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Second by J. Eischens. All in favor by roll call vote, motion carried.**

Present: Supervisors Rick Keller, Brian Seekon, Carolyn Cagle, Troy Nelson, and Jess Eischens (remote), Clerk Kelly Wood, Treasurer Stephanie Aker, 4 members of the public.

  
Richard Keller, Chair

  
Kelly Wood, Clerk

