

Alexandria Selectmen's Meeting Minutes-August 30, 2022

- ❖ **Members Present:** George Tuthill, Chet Caron and Robert Piehler
- ❖ The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- ❖ The minutes from the August 16, 2022 meeting were approved.
- ❖ **Items Reviewed and Signed**
 - Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemption: Map 406 Lot 112
 - Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemption: Map 406 Lot 32
 - Land Use Change Tax: Map 420 Lot 44
- ❖ **Public Hearings to Accept Unanticipated Funds**
 - The Selectmen opened a public hearing to accept the following unanticipated revenue:
 - Accept ARPA Funds: the Town received \$84,693.93 in August 2021 and received the second payment of \$84,693.93 in August 2022.
 - Accept additional Highway Block Grant funds from the state in the amount of \$72,208.16 received in August 2022.
 - Accept the Municipally-owned Bridge Allocation funds from the state in the amount of \$114,620.
 - There was discussion surrounding any conditions set on the funds. The Selectmen explained that the Highway Block Grant and Municipally-owned Bridge funds must be used towards new projects and not for general operating expenses or to offset taxes. The ARPA funds must be used towards the following:
 - To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
 - To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
 - For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
 - To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
 - There was discussion on whether funds could be used on Town Hall repairs and updating fiber broadband access in Town. There was discussion on whether the franchise agreement with Breezeline includes internet; the agreement is for cable television service only. Mr. Tuthill explained that the Grafton County Broadband Committee is working on expanding fiber internet to the town hall and some of the funds could be used to extend the fiber out to homes.
 - Mr. Tuthill made a motion to accept all funds; Mr. Caron seconded; all aye.
 - **Business**
 - The Selectmen reviewed the status of the Shem Valley Road Bridge repairs. Mr. Sirard stated that the bridge is ready at Hansen but there are problems with scheduling to get the work done this fall. The Selectmen discussed encumbering funds raised in 2022 for expenditure in 2023. Mr. Sirard said that the bridge could be installed as soon as the roads dry in the spring or early summer of 2023. Mr. Piehler made a motion to encumber the funds; Mr. Caron seconded; all aye.
 - The Selectmen reviewed the status of the gravel pit on the town-owned land. The Town has received the shoreland permit and is waiting for the alteration of terrain permit to move forward. Mr. Sirard expressed concerns that scrap wood is being removed from the property; there was discussion on having the person sign a release of liability before taking any additional wood.
 - There was discussion about the purchase of the new grader. Mr. Sirard said that it is in transit from Brazil and should be here in September.
 - A resident expressed concern that a car had driven up his driveway. He was concerned that it might be a representative from our assessing company, but he had requested that they not enter his property. There was discussion on whether it could have been a person that is in town surveying utility poles for the broadband expansion project. The Selectmen suggested the resident contact the police department.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Dostie, Administrative Assistant

Also in attendance: Paul Sirard, Kenneth Hall, Larry Sharp, Nancy McComas-Sharp, Stephanie McComas, Brian Lewis, Steve Whitman, Nancy Whitman, Kerry Rockwell
