

HORICON TOWN BOARD
SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

April 13, 2022
6:00 PM

Present at meeting:	Michael N. Geraci	Supervisor
	Rob Hill	Councilperson
	Robert Olson	Councilperson
	Peter Palmer	Councilperson
Krista Wood	Town Clerk	
Absent:	Frank Hill	Councilperson

Also present: Ethan Gaddy (Warren County Planning Department), Kathy Hill and Colleen Murtagh (Horicon Historical Society), Scott Hayes and Wayne Monroe (Horicon Fire Dept.), Rob Smith (NWEMS rep), Kayla Carlozzi (North Country Ministry), Tom Wynn, John Dunn and Joe Millington (Brant Lake Assoc.), and others.

Supervisor Geraci called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and explained this is an informational meeting regarding the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. He said the Town will receive approximately \$137,000.00 in Federal relief funds, and although some communities have decided to use the funds solely on their own projects, the Town Board wants to use the funding for certain Town projects but also to assist local organizations that have been negatively impacted by the loss of revenue due to the COVID pandemic. He then introduced Ethan Gaddy, an Assistant Planner from Warren County with enhanced experience regarding COVID funds.

Ethan Gaddy gave an overview of the ARPA eligibility requirements and emphasized that use of the ARPA funds must be related to the effects of the pandemic. He said guidelines were handed down from the federal government on how these funds can be spent and there are five general categories of spending that are eligible. Mr. Gaddy said the funds need to be earmarked by 2024 and spent by 2026. He noted that there are also other sources of assistance and funding available at the government level for organizations that do not qualify for the ARPA funds.

Supervisor Geraci asked those in attendance to present their applications. The Board heard presentations from the following:

- 1) Chester-Horicon Youth Commission is applying for \$2,000 for new sports equipment.
- 2) Horicon Fire Department is applying for money to purchase new gear for members as well as upgrades to the fire house to meet state requirements. Chief Hayes noted they were required to purchase special gear due to covid that was never used, and this affected their ability to purchase new regular gear. He added that the average amount to outfit a firefighter is approximately \$9,000. He noted again that the gear must be compliant with state regulations. The Chief submitted a written request on April 28, 2022 in the amount of \$70,000.00.
- 3) Horicon Historical Society is applying for \$7,000 to strengthen their online presence with a dedicated website and for improvements to the Museum's buildings. The pandemic affected their ability to hold fundraisers, and their membership numbers have dropped which has decreased the funds they would have had to use towards their projects.
- 4) North Warren EMS is applying for \$5,000 to use towards training for two members that are currently EMT's who want to move up to paramedics. Rob Smith, NWEMS representative, said it is very difficult to get employees and they want to keep those they have. He said one of the requirements for paramedic is that they must stay with the squad for two years which would ensure the squad's ambulances will remain staffed. They are requesting the same amount from Town of Chester. They are also asking for consideration for a portion of funding for a new ambulance. They currently have two ambulances over 10 years old with over 165k miles on each of them. A new ambulance will cost approximately \$300K.

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5) North Country Ministry is asking for whatever funding the Town feels reasonable to help them help the community through the various programs they offer. Any funding from the Town will be used exclusively for case worker assistance and other program delivery needs specifically within the Town of Horicon.

6) Town of Horicon – Supervisor Geraci said there are deficits in technology within the Town that have not been addressed throughout the pandemic due to revenue/expense concerns. The ARPA funding would be used for a security system, new phone system, computer upgrades and a meeting room projection system. The estimated cost of these upgrades is \$22,000-\$26,000.

7) Brant Lake Association is applying for \$70,000 to use towards milfoil control. There is a new product on the market that looks very promising and the cost to apply it is \$140,000. Due to the pandemic the BLA’s fundraising campaign was affected which reduces the amount of money they have available to put towards this new treatment plan.

Supervisor Geraci asked Mr. Gaddy for his thoughts on the applications. Mr. Gaddy said there is certainly enough information in the applications to review and see if these requests fit within the guidelines of the program. He and Supervisor Geraci will meet in the coming weeks to review eligibility of each request. Following that meeting, Supervisor Geraci will call for a special meeting when the Town Board will deliberate all proposals and make funding award decisions. He said the intent is not to use all available funds on just Town projects but rather to distribute funding on a justifiable basis to support the needs of the community.

Supervisor Geraci reminded everyone that there will be an information meeting on Wednesday, June 29th at 7:00 pm regarding de-icing systems.

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM by MOTION of Councilperson R. Hill and Councilperson Olson, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Krista Wood, Town Clerk