

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD ARPA WORKSHOP MEETING
March 17, 2022
6:00 PM**

A special ARPA workshop meeting was held at 6:00 pm on March 17, 2022 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting was also available on TV 23, available via zoom and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Guess
Supervisor Danielle Freer**

**Matt Rogers, Laberge Group
Benjamin Syden, Laberge Group**

Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC

Supervisor Danielle Freer called the ARPA workshop meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The regularly scheduled Town Board meeting immediately followed.

Representatives from Laberge Group, Benjamin Syden and Matt Rogers were present at this workshop to discuss the allocation of the ARPA funding which was received. Moving forward with additional workshops, the focus will be how the Town can leverage these funds to maximize the benefits. The Town has the Comprehensive Plan to refer to and areas of need have been recognized. Laberge will take the list and prioritize items to give the Town guidance where to get the “best bang for the buck”. Laberge has a history with the Town developing the Comprehensive Plan and are currently working on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). Funds have also been allocated at the County level and areas of need may be able to be addressed through those funds. The current due date for the annual ARPA fund reporting is 4/30/22 but this date has been extended several times already.

Supervisor Freer asked where the best place was to find a list of what the funds can be used for. Ben Syden said as of January 7, 2022, changes were made. Now municipalities receiving less than 10 million dollars can use the funding for almost anything except for paying interest on loans, employee benefits, etc.

Wish lists are being made and another workshop meeting will be scheduled to discuss options. Ben’s suggestion was to leverage grant opportunities, share the wealth throughout the town and allocate money where we can’t find grant funding.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE TO SCHEDULE AN ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP MEETING ON APRIL 14TH AT 6 PM AT 1 TOWN HALL WAY ULSTER PARK TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION ON ARPA FUNDING WITH LABERGE GROUP. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO CLOSE THE WORKSHOP MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER AT 7:02 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

*Respectively Submitted,
Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC*