Town of Orange

Public ARPA Meeting-Orange Town Hall

April 4, 2022 at 6:00pm

**Board Members Present:** Samantha Lefebvre, Selectboard Vice Chair and Sheila Stone, Selectboard Member.

**Board Members Absent:** Emily Ruff, Selectboard Chair.

**Others present who added input:**  Steve Simpson-Resident, David Childs-Resident, Lee Youngman-Town Treasurer, Christian Meyer-CVRPC Representative, Siobhan Perricone-CV Fiber Delegate, David Childs-Resident, Tim Stone-Resident, Lee Cattaneo-Resident, Brian Chadwick-Resident and Kevin Wilson-Resident.

**Call to order:**

Mrs. Lefebvre opened the meeting by leading the residents and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcoming everyone to the meeting.

**New Business:**

Discuss use of ARPA Funds**:**

Mrs. Lefebvre introduced Mr. Christian Meyer from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. He joined us to help facilitate answering any questions from the crowd. He discussed that there are 7 categories with ARPA with 83 sub categories. He read over the 7 categories and answered questions.

Ms. Youngman would like to discuss forming an ARPA task force subcommittee, comprised of 5 or 6 people to help with introducing ideas and uses of the ARPA funds.

Mrs. Perricone, CV Fiber Representative, spoke regarding using the money for Broadband. They have a fiber plan; the pole inventory has been done or is almost done and the fiber has been purchased. The use of the ARPA money would help underserved or the unserved to obtain broadband. Families, small businesses and others would benefit from the use of fiber in Orange as a reliable source of internet.

Ms. Youngman suggested that we use the money for digitizing land records. This would help to reduce on the amount of foot traffic in the office. This would also save us time, money, paper, vault space etc. Ms. Youngman states that the cost is $20,000 for the digitization of records. It was also discussed to obtain equipment for recording meetings and making it accessible for all people wanting to attend a meeting. The OWL is one suggestion for this platform. Another suggestion from Ms. Youngman was to drill a well that would service the Town Hall and the Town Clerk’s Office.

Other resident ideas:

Road crew position, create a training program for all town positions, CDL training for attracting long term highway dept. personnel, town forest trails, work study for high school students, emergency response coordination within neighboring towns, town generator for town hall and town clerk, salary increases, daycare or afterschool programs, ideas to help and keep small businesses in town, recreation field and town trails in the town forest, technology and communication, road improvements, broadband internet and town constable.

**Adjournment:**

With no further discussion, Mrs. Lefebvre made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Eastman, Town Clerk