

## **Minutes of Joint Meeting Belvidere Selectboard and Planning Commission**

**January 12, 2022**

Meeting convened at 6:34 PM and adjourned at 7:46 PM. This was an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting, hosted by Town Clerk Cathy Mander-Adams.

Members present via ZOOM (Selectboard) Ken Adams Jr., Kevin Leavitt and Earl Domina Jr. (Planning Commission) Deb Baker, Fran Leavitt, Mary Hysick, Kathy Marchant, and Ken Adams Jr. Also present were LCPC board member Carol Caldwell-Edmonds, and town residents Gary Edmonds and David Muir. In person attendees at the Town Clerk's Office were Ken Adams Jr., Earl Domina Jr., and Cathy Mander-Adams

Earl presented an overview of the meeting's purpose:

The Selectboard is reaching out to the Planning Commission for input regarding the formation of a steering committee to aid the SB in choosing municipal project(s) to use the ARPA funds received by the town. Belvidere will receive a total of \$109,000.00, with ultimate responsibility for the funds and associated projects assigned to the Selectboard. Progress reports must be submitted to the U.S. Treasury; deadlines for final project choice is 2024 and chosen project(s) must be completed by 2026. Town officials overseeing the ARPA program are encouraged to solicit input from the residents.

Questions raised:

- What, if any, are the statutes or rules of procedure on forming a Steering Committee
- What are appropriate town projects to choose for the ARPA funds
- What would the Steering Committee's responsibilities consist of

Answers to above:

- To be determined
- There are five basic broad-ranging categories that will need to be researched moving forward
- To be determined, but possible tasks might be community outreach, administrative support, follow through on chosen projects

General comments:

- Carol suggested a mailing to town residents might be styled after a mailing that Lamoille Fibernet spearheaded, and solicit input from the people in town
- People are available at VLCT and LCPC to advise towns on the use of the ARPA funds. Currently these people are Katie Buckley, and Seth Jensen, respectively
- The Selectboard and Planning Commission might identify the hot button projects in town, as an offering included in a mailing, and ask residents to choose from the list
- Bringing reliable cell service to our town might be a project offered for consideration

Motion by Mary that a Steering Committee be formed by the Selectboard and Planning Commission for the purpose of soliciting public input in the expenditure of ARPA funding received by Belvidere; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb. Discussion led to the uncertainty of which board members could vote on the motion, so Mary and

Deb withdrew the motion and its second. However, a consensus was reached to move forward with the committee formation described in Mary's motion.

The Planning Commission and the Selectboard will each discuss the steering committee issue at their next regular meetings and the chairs of both groups will work to schedule a follow-up joint meeting.

Consensus by group to adjourn at 7:46 PM

Note: These minutes will serve as a record for both the Selectboard and Planning Commission.