

Hamburg Town Board Special Meeting

Catherine A. Rybczynski, Clerk

7.22.2021

James Shaw, Supervisor	(Present)
Shawn Connolly, Councilmember	(Present)
Elizabeth Farrell, Councilmember	(Present)
Karen Hoak, Councilmember	(Present)
Michael Petrie, Councilmember	(Present)

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Wielinski, Deputy Town Clerk; Walter Rooth III, Town Attorney; Kevin Trask, Chief, Hamburg Police Department; Jennifer Robertson, IT Director, Amanda Lyle, Director of Personnel; Pat Ryan, Director, Buildings & Grounds; Jennifer Kosmowski, Director, Domestic Violence; Martin C. Denecke, Director, Youth, Recreation & Senior Services, Mark Melewski, Grant Writer

1.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board opens the Special Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

On a motion of Supervisor Shaw, seconded by Councilman Petrie, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie
	Noes	0	
	Abstained	0	

The Town Board called for a Special Meeting of the Town Board to be held on July 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM in Conference Rooms 7A & 7B at Hamburg Town Hall, 6100 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075 for the sole purpose of explaining the general outline of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2021 and for securing public input into potential program options that may be initiated under the terms of ARPA.

Supervisor Shaw began the meeting with a brief overview of the requirements in ARPA prior to introducing Mark Melewski, Grant Writer, for additional information.

Mr. Melewski stated that 50% of the funds will be to the town by next week. The Federal Government has outlined five (5) categories with very specific guidelines and requires strict reporting standards upon completion.

The categories are as follows:

1. Support public health expenditures such as COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare and certain public health and safety staff.

2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the pandemic, including to workers, households, small business, impacted industries and public sector.
3. Replace lost public sector revenue
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and storm water infrastructure and to expand access to broadband internet.

Supervisor Shaw opened the floor for comment from the public as well as department heads.

Councilman Petrie asked if the Mt. Vernon Sewer District, which did become a part of the County Sewer system, would be eligible for funding under ARPA. Supervisor Shaw stated that he was also asked about Mt. Vernon's Sewers and stated that it would qualify, but the town needs input from the public.

Councilwoman Hoak asked if there was a cap for the low/mod income set. Mr. Melewski stated that the municipalities are expected to decide how "moderate/low income" is defined in their communities. They have flexibility in making the determination.

Councilman Petrie asked if only town workers are eligible or if others in the town would also be eligible. Mr. Melewski responded that the town could establish a grant or loan program for those in need of assistance.

Public Comment was offered by those as follows:

Martin C. Denecke – During the pandemic people rediscovered the parks. Is this a good opportunity to perform work on the playgrounds, parks, etc.? Mr. Melewski stated that it was unclear, but might fit in the infrastructure requirement. Supervisor Shaw stated that the funds lost from fees, etc. may be something that may be recovered.

Jennifer Robertson – Suggested that Day Care Centers be included in small businesses considered for assistance.

Tom Nemmer – Hamburg Moves Committee (hiking, biking & walking improvements in town) Clark Street corridor is in need of safety updates. Also, ways to safely reach the Town Beach and Woodlawn Beach by means other than motor vehicle are sorely needed. Engage a design firm to develop a plan for our area.

Timothy Karig – Hamburg Skate Park – heard other areas are using ARPA funds to build skate parks.

Matt Domanowski – Create Community gathering spot for children/teens . . . a central location. Perhaps applied under the behavioral health

Nicholas Lord – Can use funds for land conservation, tree canopy, and other green initiatives. Should look at lowering costs long term and/or increase revenue. Suggested a means to plant more trees to enhance and increase land value. Supervisor Shaw asked Mr. Lord to email his

information to him. Also, Mr. Lord asked the Town Board to consider using funds to cut down dead trees.

Philip Stokes – Stated that he supports help for small business and not for profits affected by COVID-19

Megan Comerford – Asked if the Town Board could use the services of the grant writer to locate grants that have matching funds in order to stretch funds as far as possible.

Jennifer Robertson – Asked Mr. Melewski where IT falls in the process. IT has changed considerably with people working from home, zoom meetings, cyber security, etc. He replied that the broadband expansion is one area and he'd look into others

Martin C. Denecke – Spoke about the possibility of increasing the ability of Hamburg to serve as a resource center or conduit for information sought by residents. He added that the department serves everyone in Hamburg and would like to improve facilities and outreach ability.

Pat Ryan – Asked for more information regarding the chance that HVAC and mechanicals can be replaced.

2.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board adjourns the Special Session at 8:02 P.M.

On a motion of Supervisor Shaw, seconded by Councilwoman Farrell, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie
	Noes	0	
	Abstained	0	

The meeting was closed at 8:02 PM.

Open Meetings Law, Public Officers Law, Article 7, §106. Minutes.

Minutes shall be taken at all open meetings of a public body which shall consist of a record or summary of all motions, proposals, resolutions and any other matter formally voted upon and the vote thereon.

These minutes are an unofficial copy unless the original signature of the Deputy Town Clerk is affixed below. The original official paper minutes are stored in the Town's vault.

Brian Wielinski
Deputy Town Clerk