

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Special Meeting
Orwell Town Hall
November 14th, 2024
6:00PM

Members Present:
Supervisor William Potter
Council members: William Garvin, David Lake, Jessica Steele

Supervisor Potter opened the special meeting to discuss the allocation of ARPA funds at 6:00 PM. The Town of Orwell has around \$80,000 remaining from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Town Board met to discuss the best way to spend the money within the guidelines set forth by NY State. The money must be allocated by December 31st, 2024.

Discussion was had about using money for a down payment on a pickup truck. Supervisor Potter is currently working with Jay Grasso and G&G Grants to get USDA grant money for a truck.

Supervisor Potter presented a list of ideas that includes new lighter tables and chairs for the meeting hall, a new refrigerator, replacing the fire exit door on the meeting hall, remodeling the downstairs bathroom to make it ADA compliant, shelving for the archives room, and remodeling the meeting hall. Included in the remodel would be new windows, insulation, remove the paneling, and fresh paint. The total cost of these improvements is around \$30,000 leaving around \$50,000 left. Councilwoman Steele is ok with upgrading necessities like the downstairs bathroom but wondered if there would possibly be grant money to offset the cost of upgrades because the building is a historical building. Supervisor Potter responded that the building has never been designated as such. The library has already done research into this for their remodeling.

Discussion was had about giving the highway guys a retention bonus while contract negotiations are ongoing. Supervisor Potter responded that that was only an option during COVID.

Councilwoman Steele presented a list of ideas that includes sidewalks, a new cemetery sign, a playground rules sign, and possibly giving back to a local small business. She would like to see the money used on things to give back to the community.

Councilman Garvin asked if money could be used to fund NOCA's paramedics program or BOCES students for the EMT program. Supervisor Potter said he would reach out to Bob Trainham and ask.

Councilwoman Steele would like to see the repairs that are necessary done but would rather not replace unnecessary things like the tables and chairs. Councilman Garvin and Councilman Lake agree with Supervisor Potter that replacing the tables and chairs would be a nice upgrade and the current tables and chairs would be put in storage to be available for loan. The ones currently available are falling apart. Councilwoman Steele would also like to see money go to NOCA if the program is still ongoing.

- A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve replacing the windows in the meeting hall and kitchen in the Orwell Town Hall for the cost of \$9,000. (4 ayes) motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman William Garvin and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve remodeling the downstairs bathroom to make it ADA compliant for the cost of \$5,500. (4 ayes) motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman William Garvin and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve purchasing 10 new tables and 50 new chairs for the meeting hall for the cost of \$8,200-\$8,500. (3 ayes, 1 nay) motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve replacing the refrigerator upstairs for the cost of \$800-\$1,000. (4 ayes) motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman William Garvin and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve purchasing shelving for the archives room for the estimated cost of \$3,000. (4 ayes) motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman William Garvin to approve replacing the fire exit door for the cost of \$3,250. (4 ayes) motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman William Garvin that all appropriations are to come out of the ARPA funding or the SLFRF funds. (4 ayes) motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman William Garvin to adjourn the meeting at 7:00PM. (4 Ayes) Motion carries

Submitted November 26th, 2024