



TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE

Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes (Recessed)

June 29, 2022, 5:30PM

201 S Main Street, Tarboro, NC 27886

Amid the COVID-19, the Board of Commissioners meeting will be open to 20 citizens. All other citizens may join via teleconference.

Board Present: Mayor Bobbie Jones (virtual), Mayor Pro-Tem Commissioner Linda Joyner, Commissioner JoeRoam Myrick (not present), Commissioner Alvin Jones, Commissioner Milton Bullock

Staff: Town Manager Glenda Knight, Town Clerk Jessica Rudd (not present)

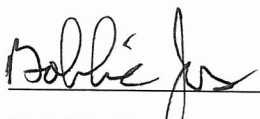
- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (Mute phones please. Presider, please state the date for recording purposes)-** Commissioner Jones motioned to resume meeting from June 23, 2022, Commissioner Bullock seconded. Vote carried 2-0.
- II. Invocation-**Commissioner Alvin Jones
- III. Pledge of Allegiance-**N/A
- IV. Public Comments: (Limited to 2 minutes. Read by Town Manager)-** None
- V. Announcement (Read by Mayor Bobbie Jones)**
 - 1) Coronavirus testing sites: Freedom Hill, Vidant walk-in clinic, Heritage Park
 - 2) Covid Vaccination: ECHD, Freedom Hill, Walgreen, Walmart, OIC
- VI. Adjustment to Agenda-**None
- VII. Presentation**
 - 1) Ben Farmer from the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Government stated that Betsy Cane is on extended leave and in her absence, they have Lea Henry to assist with any questions they may get from local governments. He stated he would be sharing some information that Betsy left and then will open the floor for any questions from the board. The first installment of ARPA funds was received last year around \$306,000 and he stated the Town should receive their next installment within the next month or two. Mr. Farmer stated originally there were four categories which were to replace lost public sector revenue, support covid-19 economic public health and economic response, provide premium pay for eligible workers, and invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. He stated one of the things they advised any municipality that has under 50,000 residents, was to use the lost of public sector revenue option because if you received less than 10 million dollars you are able to tell the federal government that all of this money was lost due to covid which gives the Town a little bit less restriction. He added Princeville did choose that option and now have ARPA funds that are considered lost revenue. Another recommendation he offered is to use those funds on employee salaries which would free up the general fund money that you would have spent on salary to be used for whatever project decided by the board.

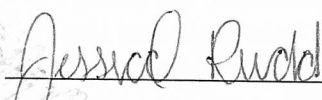
He stated the Town has until December 31, 2024 to decide how to spend those funds and December 31, 2026, to spend the funds. Mr. Farmer stated they also encourage the Town to improve the quality of life for Princeville residents and contribute to the amenities in Town. He also stated they would like for the Town to improve the efficiency and reduce costs for the Town such as buying smart meters, so the public works won't have to go door to door every month. Mr. Farmer stated that information was what Betsy left him and will now turn it over to Lea Henry.

Lea Henry introduced herself to the board and stated she has been making herself familiar with the rules and regulations. Commissioner Joyner spoke about hiring additional staff and using the ARPA funds for salary. She also stated the Town doesn't want to just split it up and give everyone some money because that would not be a long-term investment and the Town wants to be good stewards over the funds. She stated in her mind that would look like doing something infrastructurally or hiring additional staff. She added the Town doesn't want to appear that they took the money and used it for themselves. Commissioner Jones asked could the Town use the money to pay delinquent property taxes and Mr. Farmer stated that sounded like one of the things that aren't allowed but he would check into it further. Commissioner Bullock asked if those funds are allowed to be used for Princeville to invest in the youth program and hire teachers. Mr. Farmer asked would it be an existing nonprofit you would be investing in or would the Town operate it. Commissioner Bullock stated the Town is a nonprofit so to speak and so is the program. Mr. Farmer stated you can't give the money to a nonprofit but would have to contract with them to carry out specifics. Mrs. Henry stated the easier way to do it is to take the ARPA money and do one project for the revenue replacement and then the local money that is freed up, you could use it for the tutoring program or whatever other program. She added if you used the ARPA money for the tutoring program you would have to report to the federal government on the outcome and finances of that particular organization. Commissioner Joyner asked Mayor could he share his proposal with the ARPA representative. Mayor shared the poverty to prosperity prospective and the board discussed it as well as Town staffing, improvements and beautification and housing and development. The board stated they will get with the Town Manager to see if sidewalk work can be added to a current infrastructure contract already underway with the Town and to determine if cleaning the ditches that are essential to the town is classified as infrastructure or maintenance. Commissioner Joyner motioned to dedicate half of the ARP funds to the education fund, Commissioner Bullock seconded. Vote carried 3-0. No further questions.

XVII. Board Comments- Commissioner Joyner stated she wanted to make sure they have a plumline from the board to the citizens regarding the use of funds and want to make sure the Town is doing something they can be proud of.

XVIII. Adjournment- Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Joyner seconded; vote carried 3-0.

 07/19/2022
Bobbie Jones, Mayor Date

 7-19-2022
Jessica Rudd, Clerk Date