

Justin Paré, President  
John Simmons, Vice President  
Daniel Donovan  
Mark Gould, Jr.  
Darius Gregory



Kathleen Prescott  
Patrick Reynolds  
Andrew Shanahan  
Andrea Slobogan

Town of North Attleborough  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
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5/22/2023 - Minutes

**I. Pledge Of Allegiance**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Darius Gregory

Vice Chairperson Andrea Slobogan

Councilman Andrew Shanahan

**Members Absent:**

Chris Roche

Richard McCarthy

**Staff and Residents Present:**

Town Manager Michael Borg

Economic Development Coordinator Lyle Pirnie

**Documents reviewed:**

Measure 2023-009 Allocation of \$100,000 ARPA funding for North Attleboro business initiative.

**II. Approval Of Minutes**

a. Minutes of January 30, 2023

Not approved at this time.

b. Minutes of February 13, 2023

Not approved at this time.

**III. Resident And Community Comment**

None at this time.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Measure 2023-009- Allocation of \$100,000.00 of ARPA Funding for the formation of the North Attleborough Business Initiative

Measure 2023-009 Allocation of \$100,000 ARPA funding for North Attleboro business initiative.

Funding sources \$100,00 from ARPA funding which must be obligated prior to 2026. In addition, there is a \$150,000 legislative earmark from Senator Feeney. These are not appropriated dollars.

Proposal to modify this measure to not use the ARPA funding and to only use the \$150,000 legislative earmark. The name would be changed to NABA (North Attleboro Business Accelerator)

1. Mixed focus incubator/accelerator - this is for both conceptual and established businesses. The goal is to create new startups and to foster job growth.
2. Accepted applicants could use the funding however they saw fit for their business but they would also have to define the use and how it would allow them to grow.
3. The board could grant up to \$25,000.00 per business. Applications can be completed online and will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis.
4. Businesses could be directed towards mentorships and local financial institutions. Businesses would have access and direction to town resources (planning, zoning, building inspection, board of health).
5. Our operational model shows NABA as a board of directors that assists budding ideas, new companies, and new ideas from existing companies.
  1. They must submit a detailed business plan, with funding requirements to be reviewed over the course of multiple meetings, discussing the feasibility of their business plan. The board will then vote on if that plan is worthy of funding or if it needs further refinement.
  2. Selected applicants agree to submit 2x quarterly reports. The business then would be evaluated after 2 years to see how if they are a going concern, and their prospects of remaining so, and if additional funding is being requested and if more funding is warranted at that time.
    1. NABA will be promoted through different media including, but not limited to, the town website, the town sign, town social media accounts, North TV Interviews, local newspaper ads and interviews.
    2. Committee/Board to select applicants would be an ad hoc committee formed by Town Manager Borg. It would not be subject to the open meeting law. Members would be Town Manager Borg, Town Economic Development Coordinator, Jack Link- President of Regional Chamber of Commerce, Susan Murray- SEED, Town Council Member OR a member of this committee and a Town resident.
    3. Timeline
      1. June 2023-April 2024- Application Period or until funds are expended. Discussion initiated by Andrew Shanahan regarding time frame and potential loss of funding if funds are not dispersed by the prescribed date. Town Manager Borg stated that it would be a rolling timeline.
        1. Interviews to begin July 7<sup>th</sup> 2023
        2. Funding decision made by July 14<sup>th</sup> 2023
        3. Meeting and feedback August 2023-Feb 2024
        4. Showcase April 2024
      2. Vice Chairperson Andrea Slobogan questioned how mentorship would work in conjunction with the funding and how to measure

the impact on businesses.

3. Review of the NABA application and questions asked (see document provided).

4. Chairman Gregory expressed a desire for some standardization or rubric to use for selection of candidates. Councilman Shanahan continued that to express a need to include purposes of economic development or benefit for the town as a focus point of decision making when selecting candidates.

5. The committee would form the rubric as proposed by Town Manager Michael Borg. Applicants can either be from town or have a commitment to be coming to the town to establish their business.

6. The measure will be managed by Town Manager Michael Borg with assistance and support of the established committee.

4. Vice Chairperson Slobogan and Councilman Shanahan expressed a desire to create a handbook for people moving businesses to or creating businesses in North Attleboro as far as what you need to do and who you need to see to get started.

- b. North Attleborough Economic Development Discussion of On-Going Projects and Initiatives

No discussion at this time.

## V. New Business

- a. None at this time

## VI. Matters Unforseen By The Chair

## VII. Adjournment

Chairman Gregory moved to adjourn.

Councilman Shanahan motioned to adjourn at 6:50 pm.

**Motion carried 4-0**

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm**