

**Town of Ridgeway
Public Hearing
Thursday, January 26, 2023
410 West Avenue, Medina**

Officers Present:	Brian Napoli	Supervisor
	Duane Payne	Councilman
	Mary Woodruff	Councilwoman
	Hannah Hill	Town Clerk

Others Present:	Gabrielle Barone
	Robert Batt
	Dina Barone
	Jason Foote
	Kathy Blackburn
	Kelly Kiebala

The public hearing on the Ag-Tech Community Response Center at the Orleans Cornell Cooperative Extension was called to order at 2pm.

Supervisor Napoli thanked everyone for attending and asked Dina Barone to explain the project. Ms. Barone gave an overview of the project, which will be a multiuse building at the Orleans CCE site. The building will provide all-season use for various community needs, such as urgent community response, STEAM projects, robotics, digital literacy training, and workforce development. The 3200 square foot building would be drive through capable as well as have flex spacing that will allow for many different uses.

Robert Batt, executive director at the Orleans CCE, and Jason Foote added that the project has been in the works for many years and has evolved as different needs became apparent. They explained to the Board some of the challenges of the current CCE site and how this building will address those challenges.

Gabrielle Barone, from the Orleans EDA, talked about the importance of a space that local businesses could train their employees and how it would help draw more businesses to the area. Kelly Kiebala added that existing businesses look for customized training and that this project was a great match for them.

Dina Barone explained to the Board the process for obtaining the funds for this grant and the steps ahead in this project, including a second phase that will furnish the interior of the building. She thanked the Board for their support of the project. Councilwoman Woodruff expressed her admiration for everyone's energy and diligence on this project. Councilman Payne added how important STEM and higher education is to the kids in our area.

Supervisor Napoli asked for any additional questions and comments.

No other questions or comments were heard, so the hearing was closed at 2:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Hill
Ridgeway Town Clerk