

Town of Willington

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Commission
40 Old Farms Road
Willington, CT 06279

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2023

1. Call to Order:

C.Mailhos called the meeting to Order at 1:35pm

2. Members Present:

C.Mailhos
E.Wieczenski
M.D'Amato
D.Latinscics
T.Sposato
S.Fisher (1:38)

3. Approval of Minutes:

E.Wieczenski made a motion to Approve the March 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Second by T. Sposato.

All in Favor. Motion Passed Unanimously

4. Correspondence

C.Mailhos discussed an Email from D.Berg.

5. Previously Funded Projects to Discuss:

ARPA-21: Fuel Bank and HH Heating

E.Wieczenski provided an update indicating that currently no funds left within the Fuel Bank account. While it was anticipated that some funds would be left for the next heating season as of now there is currently no funds within the account. The request would be for ARPA to consider appropriating a portion of the \$50,000 ARPA contingency to backfill this program with additional funds. Currently, that program account is in the negative by \$202.82. All of the funds paid were to separate individuals, there were no double payments. E.Wieczenski suggested the Commission consider allocating another \$25,000 to the program.

The Commission discussed potential caveats to use of the funds so that it would apply to the heating season and held a general discussion about the amount to consider, what the criteria for the allocation of the funds could be and how this could be approved.

E.Wieczenski clarified that the funds are only used for a resident once per heating season.

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M.D'Amato stated that he felt that the intent of the contingency was to support previously approved projects. He stated that he was concerned about allocating half of the contingency fund with so many other projects that have not yet been completed.

The Commission held a general discussion about how to best allocate funds to ensure that there would not be such a large disparity between the amount of assistance availability this year and what would be available via the Fuel Bank next year.

C.Mailhos made a motion to appropriate an additional \$10,000 from the contingency to be available 7-1-23 to 6-30-24. Second by E.Wieczenski.

All in Favor. Motion Passes

ARPA 30A- Direct Emergency Call Line at Button Hill

D.Berg spoke to the previous request for a generator which was turned down by the Commission. He indicated that they had learned that a smaller and less expensive generator would be necessary. He asked if the Commission was currently accepting new applications.

C.Mailhos indicated that the Commission was not yet considering additional applications and that likely would not happen for approximately a year when many of the projects previously approved had been closed and there was a better understanding as to how much money would be left.

ARPA 14—BRIG Program

M.D'Amato provided an update on the status of the program. The Commission discussed doing a check in with the recipients later in the year to see how projects were progressing.

6. Updates on Previously Funded Projects to Potentially Close:

C.Mailhos made a Motion to close ARPA 28 Technology Updates at Senior Center and return \$0 to Fund 19. Second by M.D'Amato

All in Favor. Motion Passes

D.Latinscics made a motion to Close ARPA 26—Forestry Plan for Mason Tract and return 0\$ to Fund 19. Second by C.Mailhos.

All in Favor. Motion Passes

7. Updates of PREVIOUSLY FUNDED requests:

ARPA 6—Generator for DPW

Troy indicated it was scheduled to be installed on July 7.

ARPA 13—Devices for Town Staff

E.Wieczenski confirmed the Commission Should be closed next meeting. All work is done.

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ARPA 10: TOB Meeting Room Equipment

E.Wieczenski stated that she didn't believe the full amount allocated would be necessary. They are working on it now, should be a few months but will be well under budget.

ARPA 17/18: Walking Track Improvements at RRAC:

S. Fisher indicated the project planning is still moving forward and that they were working on design with the project architect.

ARPA 20: New Furnace at Fire House (WHFD):

E.Wieczenski believes this has been completed and should be ready to be closed.

ARPA 23: Summer Camp Supplement:

D.Latinsci indicated that there would be a small amount of funds left from this year for the final revenue injection next summer.

ARPA 23: Retention Bonuses for Town Staff:

E.Wieczenski stated that part of this proposal was to host a lunch for all Town staff, including the Board of Education. This was done and a local business was used for the event, which cost much less than was anticipated so they intend to hold a second event at the start of the school year and then the project can be closed.

ARPA 46: E-Code 360:

M.D'Amato indicated that this bid and contract was award by the BOS in May so the project would be starting shortly.

ARPA 45: EDC Strategic Plan:

M.D'Amato stated that the final RFP document was approved by the EDC and that it was now being posted for solicitation of bids.

ARPA 39A—Repair of Library Structure (Retaining Wall)

J.Tarascewicz indicated that the project was in progress.

ARPA 47: Facilities Study

E.Wieczenski indicated that was still being reviewed. They had held off on moving forward previously to see how the school project turned out.

8. Funding Request Submissions- POSSIBLE ACTION

C.Mailhos indicated that no funding was currently available so no action would be taken here.

ARPA 40A: Library Gutters and Downspout Replacement

ARPA 42: Center School Playground Resurfacing

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9. Present to Speak

D.Berg asked a question of the Board pertaining contingency funds that were set aside for a project.

J. Taraskiewicz spoke to her thoughts about how the Board was reviewing projects and what should happen to unspent funds.

10. Adjourn

The Commission agreed that the next meeting would be held in September unless a pressing matter came up and a special meeting was needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14pm

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