

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMISSION  
AUGUST 30, 2022  
6:00 P.M.  
Town Hall Meeting Room, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT  
Hybrid Meeting**

**Present:** First Selectman Colin Moll, Michael Stevens, Brian Kost and Mel Chafetz

**Present via Zoom:** Tom Frenaye

**First Selectman Moll** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

**Janet Davis, 8 Wisteria Lane** – Ms. Davis, resident and WPCA Chairperson, wanted to thank **Mr. Frenaye** for mentioning during the last meeting that he was concerned with the lack of input from the public with regard to how the American Rescue Plan funds should be allocated. She also suggested that the commission consider holding the meetings at a later time to allow for those who work to attend.

**Approval of the minutes from the March 31, 2022 Special Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Commission**

**T. Frenaye** pointed out that there was a typographical error at the bottom of page one. Under the section entitled “Allocation proposed for 2<sup>nd</sup> year” it reads “\$650 to be determined (TBD) Capital Improvements.” The correct version should read “\$650K.” **T. Frenaye** also expressed his disappointment that this set of minutes was submitted beyond the 7 day posting requirement.

**M. Chafetz** motioned and **M. Stevens** seconded to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2022 Special Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Commission with the correction noted. **Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Discussion of American Rescue Plan Funds**

**First Selectman Moll** noted two groups in attendance this evening who wished to present to the commission; the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority.) He offered each group a ten (10) minute opportunity to address the commission.

**Bill Moryto, Retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel and current Commander of VFW Post 9544** and **Senior Chief Dave Shute** were invited by **First Selectman Moll** to address the commission. **Mr. Moryto** explained that the VFW was coming before them this evening to seek financial support due to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their post. He described the VFW as a non-profit organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members; active, guard and reserve. He went on to explain their mission and history since the Post’s inception in 1947, and how the VFW Post serves not only the veterans of foreign wars but the entire community. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions, the post lost its two primary sources of revenue: hall rentals and the canteen/bar, it also prevented the post from holding any type of fundraising events. **Mr. Moryto** explained that incremental improvements to the infrastructure have been made to the VFW post, however, the loss of revenue has taken its toll. At this time, the VFW is looking at three projects that must be undertaken in the near future. The renovations priorities include:

- 1) **Complete renovation of the four (4) bathrooms (two upstairs and two downstairs)**
  - a. Current cost of renovations estimated at \$100,000
- 2) **Kitchen renovation and covering safety code requirements**
  - a. Current cost of renovations estimated at \$53,000
- 3) **Exterior - Parking lot and drainage**
  - a. Current cost of renovations estimated at \$150,000

**Mr. Moryto** asked for \$150,000 to complete the Kitchen and Bathroom renovations to get the building up to code. **M. Stevens** asked why he was not seeking money for all three projects and **Mr. Moryto** said he would love to complete all three but the bathrooms and kitchen seemed to be a higher priority in the scheme of things. Discussion ensued with the members asking **Mr. Moryto** and **Mr. Shute** numerous questions regarding the VFW itself, the part it plays in the community, past funding sources, their current financial status and the proposed renovations and current cost estimations/quotes.

**First Selectman Moll** invited **WPCA Superintendent Jamie Kreller** to speak on behalf of the WPCA. **Mr. Kreller** introduced the **WPCA Engineer Mike Head** of Woodard and Curran. They presented a five minute video outlining how COVID-19 impacted the public water systems, in particular, how it impacted their revenue streams. They followed this presentation with an overview of the WPCA in Suffield, the Stoney Brook Connector and why this project should be considered for ARPA funds. Discussion ensued amongst the members with regard to the different types of users of the connector services such as households, businesses and the prison. **Mr. Kreller** was able to provide some of the details while other questions he would need to investigate further in order to provide accurate information. This information was important from the perspective of whether it would truly benefit all taxpayers which is the goal of the ARPA fund allocations. **WPCA Attorney Andrew Lord** and **WPCA Chairperson Janet Davis** provided their thoughts on the subject with clarifying details. The cost of the project was discussed, with numerous questions being asked of the WPCA regarding their budget process and what they have allocated for projects such as this. When asked for a specific dollar request, the WPCA noted they had not come to a decision on the final amount, however, they would be happy with \$1,000,000. **First Selectman Moll** thanked the group for their presentation and noted it would be taken into consideration.

The members reviewed their original discussions from the spring meetings, what had actually been spent in year one versus what had been allocated and what was still slated to be spent for year two. Discussion continued as to whether they were still in favor of moving forward with their original recommendations. Each member brought up additional ideas for possible allocations and discussed them at a high level. The members agreed to meet again in order to allow them all to consider the ideas brought up this evening.

**M. Chafetz motioned and M. Stevens seconded to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary