

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMISSION
JANUARY 3, 2023
5:00 P.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting**

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

First Selectman Moll called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Janet Davis, 8 Wisteria Lane – Ms. Davis, WPCA Chairperson, spoke on behalf of the WPCA and their request for ARPA funds to assist in the funding of the Stony Brook Park Connector Project.

Approval of the minutes from the October 3, 2022 Special Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Commission

T. Frenaye motioned and **M. Chafetz** seconded to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2022 Special Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Commission as presented. **Vote: 4 in favor (Moll, Frenaye, Chafetz and Kost) and 1 abstain (Stevens.) Motion passed.**

Discussion of American Rescue Plan Funds

First Selectman Moll referenced a spreadsheet created by the **First Selectman** and **Finance Director Eric Remington** which was distributed to the commission for their review prior to this evenings meeting. The spreadsheet outlined the funds received by the town in the first year and how they had been allocated. **First Selectman Moll** opened the floor to discussion on the second year funds and allocation ideas currently being proposed. In-depth discussion ensued among the commission with all members being given the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns on the proposed items, the best way to address some of the ideas brought before them and the methods for disbursement. The remaining funds available for allocation total \$2,635,000.

B. Kost motioned to approve the allocation of \$2,000,000 in ARPA funds to include: \$750,000 for the remaining balance of the tanker truck, \$1,000,000 for a new bulldozer for the Landfill, \$150,000 to the VFW for renovations and \$100,000 to be transferred to the Town Improvement Fund to be used as they see fit. **M. Stevens** seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued with regard to the motion before the group with each member expressing what they did or did not like about the proposed allocations.

B. Kost withdrew his first motion and motioned to approve the allocation of \$1,900,000 in ARPA funds to include: \$750,000 for the remaining balance of the tanker truck, \$1,000,000 for a new bulldozer for the Landfill and \$150,000 to the VFW for renovations. **M. Stevens** seconded the motion.

Discussion continued with regard to the VFW allocation and concerns as to whether the group is a true non-profit organization.

Vote: 2 in favor (Kost and Stevens) and 3 against (Moll, Chafetz and Frenaye.) Motion failed.

Discussion continued with regard to the inclusion of organizations such as the Land Conservancy, WPCA and the Trees for Suffield Initiative.

B. Kost motioned to approve the allocation of \$1,750,000 in ARPA funds to include: \$750,000 for the remaining balance of the tanker truck and \$1,000,000 for a new bulldozer for the Landfill. **No second received.**

M. Stevens motioned approve the allocation of \$2,100,000 in ARPA funds to include: \$750,000 for the remaining balance of the tanker truck, \$1,000,000 for the new bulldozer for the Landfill, \$150,000 to the VFW for renovations and \$200,000 to the Town Improvement Fund (TIF.) B. Kost seconded.

First Selectmen Moll asked that the motion include a contingency for any stipulations that may be associated with the town Improvement Fund (TIF.)

M. Stevens amended the motion to change “Town Improvement Fund” to “Organizational Fund.”

Commission members continued to discuss their concerns with the proposed allocations before them.

Vote: 3-2 in favor (Moll, Stevens and Kost) and 2 against (Chafetz and Frenaye.) Motion passed.

Further discussion ensued as to how the remaining \$535,000 in ARPA funds should be spent with an emphasis on getting further information regarding the creation of a Bridge Street Park from the Parks and Recreation Department.

B. Kost motioned and T. Frenaye seconded to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary