

Town of New Fairfield
Board of Selectmen
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Wednesday, July 14, 2021
7:00 PM
ARPA WORKING GROUP
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman

Members not present:

Khris Hall, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Maria Evans, Director of Emergency Management
Karen Fildes, Director of Technology and Communications
Tim Simpkins, Director of Health
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief

Paul Gouveia gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

American Rescue Plan Act

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Town of New Fairfield will receive approximately \$4.1 million from the American Rescue Plan Act. She spoke of the need to evaluate and determine the best uses for these funds. It was noted that the State of Connecticut is receiving \$2.55 billion statewide. New Fairfield is considered a non-entitlement unit since it has a population of less than 50,000 resident. The money will be received in two parts. The first payment of \$2,053,601.11 was received in June 2021 and the other payment will be received in June 2022. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2023 and expended by December 31, 2026.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the intent of the funds and restrictions and exclusions for the funds. She noted that this is a forward looking grant and not for reimbursement that expenses that were previously expended. These funds can be used for premium pay for essential workers including the provision for municipalities to provide grants to private employers.

Next Steps

Pat Del Monaco suggested areas of interest that included Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Services and premium pay for essential workers. There was a discussion of what would be the best ways to develop infrastructure in town and the best ways to bring businesses to town. Expenditures related to safety in town was also discussed. Fire Chief Bruce Taylor and Director of Emergency Management Maria Evans both spoke of infrastructure that would benefit public safety during emergencies.

There was a suggestion of having working groups to discuss broad band, social services and public safety. Pat Del Monaco will check into whether or not these working groups will need to file agendas and comply with Freedom of Information rules. It was decided that the BOS will hold another ARPA special meeting in about one month.

Pat Del Monaco encouraged everyone to refer to a document called FAQ's from Treasury which is available on their website.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Suzanne Kloos

Received by Email on 7/21/2021 @ 2:00 pm
by Pamela J. Dohan, Town Clerk, New Fairfield



American Rescue Plan Act

July, 2021



Overview

- \$2.55 billion statewide
- \$1.56 billion to General Government
- \$995 billion to Boards of Education
- Non-entitlement Unit (pop. <50,000)
- Two tranches, June, 2021, June 2022
- Must be obligated by December 31, 2024
- Expended by December 31, 2026
- \$2,053,601.11




Statutory Intent

- To respond to the public health emergency or its negative impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses and non-profits, or to aid impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality,
- To respond to essential workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to essential workers,
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure



Statutory Exclusions

- Pension Funds
- Reduction in Tax Revenue
- Contributions to Rainy Day Funds



Eligible Uses

- Support Public Health Response
- Address Negative Economic Impacts
- Investments in Water and Sewer
- Broadband Infrastructure
- Replace Loss of Revenue
- Providing Premium Pay for Essential Workers



Support Public Health Response

- Contain and mitigate spread of COVID-19
 - Vaccination programs, testing, contact tracing, PPE purchases, public communication efforts, ventilation improvements
- Provide behavioral healthcare services, including mental health, substance abuse treatment and crisis intervention



Addressing Negative Economic Impacts

- Provide assistance to businesses and households including assistance to families, the unemployed, small businesses and non-profits or aid to industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality through grants or loans
- Invest in housing and neighborhoods, including affordable housing development



Investments in Water and Sewer

- Municipalities may use funds to invest in improvements in water and sewer infrastructure



Investments in Broadband Infrastructure

- Allows for investment in broadband infrastructure in areas that are underserved or underserved.
- 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload

Replacing Lost Revenue

- Loss of Revenue is calculated according to a formula, assuming an annual growth rate of 4.1%
- Revenue is considered as a whole, not by individual revenue streams
- Revenue loss for the current year is \$3,461,534
- Municipalities have broad latitude to use the funds to “support government services”



Provide Premium Pay to Essential Workers

- Recognize contributions of essential workers
- Can be used to provide premium pay directly or through grants to private employers
- Includes janitors and sanitation workers
- Grocery and Restaurant workers
- Public Health and Safety Staff



Recommendations

- ARPA looks forward, not backward
- Identify pre-COVID inhibitors to growth
- Set 3 – 5 goals
- Short term investment with lasting benefits



Next Steps

- Identify 3-5 Areas of Interest
 - Infrastructure
 - Public Safety
 - Social Services
 - Premium Pay
- Work in Small Groups to Develop Projects
- Meet Monthly