

# Town of Willington

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Commission

40 Old Farms Road  
Willington, CT 06279

### Meeting Minutes November 21, 2022

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

C.Mailhos called the meeting to order at 1:33pm

#### 2. Roll Call

C.Mailhos	M.D'Amto
S.Fisher	S.Cobb
E.Wieczenski	D.Latinscics (absent)
T.Sposato (absent)	J.Arpin (absent)
T.Smith (absent)	R.Campbell
S.Hills (absent)	

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

##### a. 11/7/22

*E.Wieczenski made a motion to approve the 11/7/22 minutes. Second by R.Campbell*

<b>All in Favor. Motion Passes with S.Cobb and R.Campbell abstaining</b>
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#### 4. Correspondence

##### a. Resignation of Tom Smith from ARPA Commission

The Commission acknowledged receipt of Tom Smith's letter of resignation. E.Wieczenski indicated that both of the Town's Fire Chiefs would be discussing who could fill the vacancy in lieu of T.Smith.

#### 5. Present to Speak

J.Taraskiewicz of Liska Rd addressed the Commission in her capacity as a member of the Library Board regarding ARPA #39. She indicated the Library Board's strong desire to have the public hearing on this project scheduled as soon as possible so that if approved, the work could be completed.

#### 6. New Business

#### 7. Unfinished Business

##### a. Updates on PREVIOUSLY FUNDED requests (*No discussion necessary if there are no updates.*)

- i. ARPA-3 -Second Ambulance (WFD1) / Approved on 3/21/22 for \$100,000. Ambulance purchased and in service. \$22,813.66 available to spend or return when the project closes.
- ii. ARPA-5- SCBA Air Packs (WHFD) / Approved on 3/21/22 for \$235,000. Air Packs ordered for \$113,338.35. \$23,661.65 available to spend or return when the project closes.
- iii. ARPA-6 - Generator for DPW (DPW) / BOS awarded the generator project on 11/7 for \$47,677 - much less than the \$69,000 that was earmarked for it.

**E.Wieczenski indicated that the funding had been earmarked by the Board of Selectman but that the materials may not be able to be acquired until late winter or early spring.**

- iv. ARPA-10 - TOB Meeting Room Equipment - Mics & speakers (BOS) / Approved at Town Meeting on 8/3/21 for \$28,500. \$26,474.02 available to spend or return when the project closes.
- v. ARPA-13 - Devices for town staff and Senior Center (BOS) / Approved at 5/24/22 Public Hearing for \$46,000. \$8,144.11 balance available to spend or return when the project closes. Town devices have been set up. Still waiting on parts for Wi-Fi upgrade & Network closet refresh.
- vi. ARPA-14 - Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program (EDC) / EDC has closed the first round of applications for the BRIG program and checks have been distributed.
- vii. ARPA-15 - Senior Center Coordinator Position (WHS) / Town and Union negotiating salary. \$34,379 was appropriated for this based on projections at the time. Hoping to fill the position ASAP.

**E.Wieczenski stated that they hoped to have a selected applicant by next week.**

- viii. ARPA-16 - Radios for FD Use (WHFD & WFD1) / Ordered, waiting for delivery and final invoices. Will come in just under the \$235,000 budget.
- ix. ARPA-17/18 - Walking track improvements at RRAC (Drainage & lights) (WPRC) - \$220,000 / Approved at 8/1/22 meeting. Project planning has begun.
- x. ARPA-20 - New Furnace for Fire House (WHFD) \$20,000 / Approved at 8/1/22 meeting, p.o. issued so the project can move forward.
- xi. ARPA-21 - Fuel Bank and HH Heating. Approved \$25,000 to assist residents in need.
- xii. ARPA-23 - Summer Camp Supplement / Approved on 5/22 for \$36,238. Year 1 of the program has been completed. \$14,558.12 available for Year 2 supplement.
- xiii. ARPA-26 - Forestry Plan for Mason Road Tract (WCC) / Approved on 5/24/22 for \$2,800. Forest Management Plan expected to be completed in Fall of 2022.
- xiv. ARPA-27 - Building materials for park structure maintenance (WCC) / Approved on 5/24/22 for \$3,500. These funds may take several years to spend.
- xv. ARPA-28 - Technology upgrades at the Senior Center (WSC) \$3,000 / Approved on 8/1/22.
- xvi. ARPA-29 - ARPA Commission Public Hearing Expenses (ARPA) (prior ARPA-28) / Approved on 5/24/22 for \$2,000. To date \$796.48 has been spent to hold 3 Public Hearings.
- xvii. ARPA-30A - Direct Emergency Call Line at Button Hill (WHA) \$53,000 / Approved at 8/1/22 meeting.
- xviii. ARPA-31 - Historical Society Archival Storage (WHS) - \$15,000 / Approved at 8/1/22 meeting.
- xix. ARPA-33 - Flags, Grave Markers and Monument Repair (WVF) - \$6,500 / Approved at 9/19/22 meeting.
- xx. ARPA-34 - Storage Box at DPW for Evictions (DPW) - \$6,500 / Approved at 8/1/22 meeting. BOS approved a vendor at their 11/7/22 meeting.

**E.Wieczenski indicated that this project would be under budget.**

b. Updates on PREVIOUSLY HEARD requests (*No discussion necessary if there are no updates.*)

- i. ARPA-39 - Repair of Library Building Structure (WPL) \$27,600 - Waiting to go to Public Hearing.

E.Wieczenski responded to comments made during Present to Speak about this project in particular. She reiterated that the project could not have been moved forward prior to now as an additional public hearing had not been held. She further provided additional clarification as to why the Commission had not yet taken action on this project and/or what questions were outstanding. The Commission held a general discussion about the project, what issues had been identified and what outstanding questions existed.

D.Linares sought clarification as to if there were any outstanding questions or concerns that could be addressed prior to a public hearing.

The Commission held a discussion with the applicant about the project and the documentation that had been provided and funding requested. The Commission had general concerns about some of the items requested for funding and if regular maintenance would have prevented these items from being necessary. Multiple members indicated that several items requested may be maintenance related.

R. Tulis addressed the Commission regarding his review of the building and site and the issues being reviewed based upon his familiarity with the property.

*C.Mailhos made a motion to move ARPA#39A (Retaining Wall only) in the amount of \$11,500 to public hearing. Second by E.Wieczenski.*

<b>All in Favor. Motion Passes</b>
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*C.Mailhos made a motion to move ARPA #39B (Parking Lot Bollards only) in the amount of \$8,100 to public hearing. Second by S.Cobb*

<b>All in Favor. Motion Passes</b>
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*C.Mailhos made a motion to move ARPA#39C (Emergency Egress only) in the amount of \$5,400 to public hearing. Second by M.D'Amato*

S.Fisher indicated that based upon the discussion and application materials, he did not see anything that had been provided as of yet that would indicate what Building or Fire Codes would apply or dictate such a door would be necessary.

The Commission indicated it would be helpful to have any comments from the Fire Marshal regarding the proposed installation of the exit door.

<b>E.Wieczenski, C.Mailhos, M.D'Amato, R.Campbell- Yes</b>
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<b>S.Cobb, S.Fishder- No</b>
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<b>Motion Passes 4:2</b>
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- ii. ARPA-40 - Miscellaneous Library Structure Improvement Projects - \$81,250.00 - Making adjustments to request before going to Public Hearing.

*C.Mailbos made a motion to approval ARPA#40A (gutters and downspouts only) in the amount of \$21,000 to public hearing. Second by E.Wieczenski.*

<b>All in Favor. Motion Passes</b>
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- iii. ARPA-41 - Stove For Senior Center - \$6,000.00 - Approved to go to the next Public Hearing.
  - iv. ARPA-42 - Center School Playground Surfacing (BOE) - \$90,000 - Heard by ARPA Commission on 11/7/22 - Approved to go to next Public Hearing.
  - v. ARPA-43 - Recess Equipment (BOE) - \$20,000 - Heard by ARPA Commission on 11/7/22 - Approved to go to next Public Hearing.
  - vi. ARPA-44 - Extended Learning Opportunities (BOE) - \$20,000 - Heard by ARPA Commission on 11/7/22 - Approved to go to next Public Hearing.
  - vii. ARPA-45 - Strategic Planning Project (EDC) - \$60,000 - Heard by ARPA Commission on 11/7/22 - Approved to go to next Public Hearing.
  - viii. ARPA-46: Town Codification Project (Land Use/Town Clerk)- \$10,000 - Heard by ARPA Commission on 11/7/22 - Approved to go to next Public Hearing.
- c. Updates on requests heard at PUBLIC HEARING *(No discussion necessary if there are no updates)*
- i. ARPA-32 - Retention Bonuses for Town Employees (BOS) - \$32,250 / *Heard at Public Hearing on 7/11/22. Requested that the Board of Selectmen call a Town Meeting to allow the townspeople to vote on it. Replacement request being considered.*

**Note:** R.Campbell left the meeting room and did not participate in any discussion on this item.

E.Wieczenski gave an update on the request to the Commission. She stated that she had been reviewing alternatives with the BOS. She further stated that after a staff meeting, she indicated that overall, Staff was in agreement that they were disappointed with how this request had been handled to date and that it should be considered. E.Wieczenski put forward to the Board a request for consideration of the project, as submitted.

The Board held a general discussion on this project request and the options for moving forward. Sending the project to Town meeting or holding a new public hearing were reviewed as options. It was then determined that following R.Campbell's recusal, with only 5 voting members, no action could be taken. This item will remain on the Commission's agenda until the next meeting.

- ii. ARPA-36 - Retention Bonuses for Fire Department Employees (WFD1) - \$17,000 / *Heard at Public Hearing on 7/11/22. ARPA Commission requested that the Board of Selectmen call a Town Meeting to allow the townspeople to vote on it. Replacement request being considered.*

**d. Projects to CLOSE**

**e. Funding Request Submissions - POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Commission held a general discussion about when to hold the next public hearing. There as consensus that the Commission would look to call the public hearing of January 9 at the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**8. Present to Speak**

**9. Adjourn**

It was determined that the meeting location was to be used for another purpose at 4pm. Accordingly, *E.Wieczenski made a motion to adjourn, second by R. Campbell. The meeting adjourned at 3:58pm*

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WILLINGTON, CT.  
2022 NOV 21 P 6:32

  
TOWN CLERK

