

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) COMMISSION

June 6, 2022, 1:30pm

Regular Meeting

Town Office Building, Lower Level

Please Note: This meeting was recorded and may be [viewed on YouTube here](#)

1. Call to Order

C.Mailhos called the meeting to Order at 1:30pm

2. Roll Call

Christina Mailhos
Erika Wieceński
Michael D'Amato
Stuart Fisher
Troy Sposato
Donna Latinsci

Jennie Arpin
Robin Campbell (not present)
Tom Smith
Samantha Hills (not present)
Stuart Cobb

3. Approval of Minutes

4/18 Minutes EW/Second by Tom Smith
5/2 Minutes Troy/Second by EW
5/24 Minutes Tom Smith/ Second EW

4. Correspondence

C.Mailhos informed the Commission that she had received several emails from people asking general questions but nothing providing updates for specific projects.

5. Present to Speak

D.Berg requested clarification that his email to the Commission was received.

6. New Business

ARPA-35: Willington Community Cares: C.Mailos indicated that an application had just been submitted from an Organization called "Community Cares" with a request for \$6,000. There was no specific information attached to the request and no member of the Organization present to speak.

ARPA-35 was deemed to be incomplete and was not received by the Commission.

a. Requests to be RECEIVED

T.Smith/ Second by S.Cobb Motion to RECEIVE ARPA 32, 33 and 34.

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

b. Requests to be HEARD by ARPA Commission

i. ARPA-32- Retention Bonus Plan- \$32,250

E.Wieceński gave a brief overview of the project request and which employees it would apply to. She further explained that the purpose of this request was to acknowledge the Town's staff for

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their work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She then clarified that this request did not include any elected officials.

The members of the Commission then held a general discussion about the most appropriate pathway to consider this request given the makeup of the ARPA Commission members.

T.Smith made a motion to Move ARPA-32 to Public Hearing, Second by M.D'Amato.

T.Smith mentioned that he felt that it was the ARPA project that he felt most strongly about. He indicated that he felt that using ARPA funding to support and acknowledge Town staff was an appropriate use of Town staff.

S. Fisher asked for clarification on the payments to be made and if they were considered bonus pay or would impact the operating budget moving forward.

E.Wieczenski indicated that Chief Moore had mentioned to her during another discussion that he felt a similar consideration would be appropriate.

The ARPA Commission felt that given that the Fire Department was a separate agency, it should be considered as a separate request.

All in Favor with R.Campbell abstention. Motion Passes.
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ii. **ARPA-33- Flags, Grave Markers and Monument Repair- \$6,500**

E.Dagata explained that the purpose of this project was to fund the costs associated with maintenance and materials. He explained that a non-profit, the Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation had been established to carry out these activities. He further explained that the purpose of the Foundation would be to raise these funds in the future, but that these funds were necessary to keep these activities active.

E.Wieczenski asked if the intent was to remove this from the Town's budget, which is where it's currently partially paid from.

E.Dagata indicated that the intent was for the Foundation to take over the responsibility completely.

E.Wieczenski stated that these activities overlapped with an expenditure that was currently within the Board of Selectmen's budget. She indicated that she felt that the Board of Selectmen should be consulted so that a discussion could be held regarding the request.

R.Campbell stated that she felt the Board of Selectmen should be involved in the discussion with the Foundation.

E.Wieczenski clarified that she felt strongly that these discussions needed to be held with the Board of Selectmen prior to any action with the ARPA Commission.

E.Dagata indicated that the reason this request was proposed was to cover anticipated expenses for the upcoming year for materials that they did not have funds to purchase.

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T.Smith made a motion to table ARPA-33 until further information has been received. Second by T.Sposato

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

iii. ARPA-34- Storage Box at DPW for Evictions- \$6,000

T.Sposato explained that the purpose of this request was to provide a secure location to store the materials related to evictions, which the Town is required by law to store. He further explained that there is not place to store these materials out of the elements unless Town equipment is moved outside.

The Commission held a general discussion about the size of the box, the final cost based upon the quote that had been received and how frequently it will be utilized and the other potential uses for similar storage boxes.

M.D'Amato made a motion to move ARPA-34 to public hearing. Second by R.Campbell.

S.Fisher asked to clarify that the cost was inclusive of all expenses. T.Sposato confirmed that was the case.

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Updates on PREVIOUSLY FUNDED requests

The Commission held a general discussion about the status of the various projects that has been previously approved based upon the information included on the Meeting's agenda. In addition,

S.Cobb gave a brief update gave a brief update on ARPA-3: Second ambulance.

M.D'Amato gave a brief update on ARPA-14: EDC Grants

J.Arpin provided an update on ARPA-23: Summer Camp Supplement, and indicated that 61 children had registered so far and that applications were still coming in.

b. Updates on PREVIOUSLY HEARD AND TABLED

i. ARPA-17 and ARPA-18- Walking Track and Drainage Improvements at River Road Park

A.Humphreys gave an update on the costs and information that had been provided.

The Commission held a discussion about the project overall, what the costs included and what the costs would be associated with preparing the engineered plan to do so.

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A.Humphreys stated that the costs to fix the park completely would be \$196,979. The costs to just address the portions of the site which are problematic and not perform the upgrades is \$128, 879. He further explained that the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Commission was that the park be fixed correctly and that the entire project be funded vs. just the fixes for the areas which are problematic.

K.Acimovic further clarified the history of the Park and the history as to why some of these issues had presented themselves.

J.Arpin asked if the site issues would get worse if they were not fixed.

K.Acimovic indicated it was possible. He further explained how he had developed the cost estimates to determine the approximate costs of the project as submitted.

M.D'Amato made a Motion to move ARPA 17 and ARPA-18 to public hearing for the complete project request of \$196, 979. Second by D.Latinscics

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

ii. ARPA-20 New Furnace for Firehouse (WHFD)

T.Smith gave an update on the status of the replacement of the furnace at WHFD. The quote that has been received in the amount of \$15, 650.00

E.Wieczenski made a motion to move ARPA-20 to public hearing, Second by T.Sposato

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

iii. ARPA-30- Emergency Generator and Call Line at Button Hill

Correspondence received by D.Berg including updates to the cost options for the project and what each will include was reviewed.

E.Wieczenski—made a motion to table, second by M.D'Amato.

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

iv. ARPA-31- Historical Society Archival Storage

C.Mailhos indicated that no new information had been received and that there was nobody in attendance at the meeting who was prepared to speak so the application would remain before the Commission.

c. Updates on requests PREVIOUSLY HEARD AND APPROVED TO MOVE TO PUBLIC HEARING

ARPA-28- Tech. Upgrades at Senior Center

Submitter requested item be tabled. No action taken

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d. Requests to be CLOSED

ARPA-7- AC for HMS Band Room

No action was taken

ARPA-11- Town Office Building Basement Cleaning and Concreate Floor:

E.Wieczenski indicated that the project was complete and under budget.

E.Wieczenski- move to close project \$41,785.08 and return \$15,714.92 back to fund 19. Second by T.Smith

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

8. Opportunity to Call a Public Hearing

The ARPA Commission will hold a Special Meeting June 27th 1:30pm and tentative set a Public Hearing date of July 11, 1:30pm

9. Present to Speak

M.Makuch: Indicated that he appreciated the Commissions discussion about how to best proceed with ARPA-32. He further stated that he felt that anyone ARPA Commission member that could financially benefit from the project should not participate in the discussion or vote. He clarified additional requirements under Roberts Rules

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by M.D'Amato, second by E.Wieczenski. Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm

All in Favor. Motion Passes.

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