

# Town of Willington

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Commission

40 Old Farms Road  
Willington, CT 06279

**August 29, 2022**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order:**

C.Mailhos called the meeting to Order at 1:31pm.

**Members Present:**

E. Wieceński

C.Mailhos

T.Sposato

S.Fisher

D.Latinsciens

S.Hills (not present)

M.D'Amato

S.Cobb

T.Smith

J.Arpin

R.Campbell (1:35)

**2. Minutes**

E. Wieceński made a motion to approve the July 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes. Second by T. Sposato.

*All in Favor. Motion Passes Unanimously*

**3. Correspondence:**

C.Mailhos outlined an email that had been received by Michael Makuch, Board of Finance Chair.

**4. Present to Speak:**

None

**5. New Business:**

None

**6. Unfinished Business**

**Updates on Projects Previously Funded**

**ARPA-3. New Ambulance:** S. Cobb gave a brief update stating that the vehicle is in service. He also gave an update on costs to date.

**ARPA-13. Town Devices:** E.Wieceński updated the Commission and stated that the equipment for Wi-Fi upgrades is still 6 months out so won't be able to close the project for some time.

**Updates on Projects Previously Heard**

*No discussion*

**Updates on Requests heard at Public Hearing**

**ARPA-33. Flags, Grave Markers and Monument Repair:** There was a general discussion about the status of this project between the Commission and the applicant. It was agreed that there still needs to be additional coordination with the Board of Selectmen regarding the long-term management and costs.

*T.Smith made a motion to to Approve ARPA-33 as submitted. Second by E.Wieceński.*

E.Wieczenski stated she felt there needed to be to be more discussion related to how this will work over the long term since the Town does have budgeted expenses for this. What would happen if things changed down the road?

R.Cambell spoke to how it had been handled previously and what the budget used to cover. Has concerns that down the road after the money is spent the costs will then come back to the Town. There should be a plan in place

M.D'Amato stated that he felt that for consistency with how other project requests had been handled, he felt that ARPA needs to understand how this will affect the Town's operating budget moving forward.

*T.Smith made a motion to table the motion with the expectation that discussion is held with the Selectmen. Second by R.Campbell*

***All in Favor with E.Wieczenski abstaining. Motion Passes***

### **Funding Request Submissions—Possible Actions**

#### **ARPA 32: Retention Bonuses for Town Employees.**

C.Mailhos gave an overview of the BOF discussion and the Email that had been received. *(At this time, T.Sposato, J.Arpin, R.Campbell, D.Latinscics left the meeting room and were not present for this discussion)*

The Commission members held a general discussion about the project the indication that the Board of Finance felt this should be sent to a vote at Town meeting.

E.Wieczenski indicated that she supports and stands by the project and the Ordinance which allows the ARPA Commission to make these decisions. She further indicated that she is not opposed to Town input, but the process is the process as outlined in the Ordinance

M.D'Amato indicated that he is strongly in support of the request as someone who is not included in the funds to be spent. This project request was developed by the BOS to compensate the employees for their work during covid. The amounts provided to each employee were indicated within the request and developed transparently by the BOS.

*M.D'Amato made a motion to approve ARPA 32: Second by E.Wieczenski*

S.Fisher sought clarification regarding an opinion letter provided by the Town Attorney related to the Statutes for various expenditures.

T.Smith: In support but feels like it may have to go to Town Meeting.

C.Mailhos indicated that she would vote No at the ARPA Commission, but would vote Yes if it were sent to a Town Meeting: No here, Yes at Town Meeting

*E.Wieczenski made a Motion to Call the Question. Second by Tom Smith. All in Favor (Regarding the Motion to Approve ARPA 32:)*

C.Mailhos: No                      E.Wieczenski: No

M.D'Amato: No                  T.Smith: No

S.Cobb: Abstain                S.Fisher: No

*C.Mailhos made a motion that ARPA 32 Recommend that BOS call Town Meeting to Approve ARPA 32, Second by T.Smith:*

C.Mailhos: Yes                  M.D'Amato: No

E. Wiezenski: Yes              S. Fisher: Yes

S. Cobb: Abstain                T. Smith: Yes

***Motion Passes***

### ARPA 36: Retention Bonuses for Fire Department Employees

*E.Wieczenski made a motion to approve ARPA 36: Second by M.D'Amato:*

E.Wieczenski spoke to concerns she had with discussion of this request by the Board of Finance.

M.D'Amato stated that he felt this should be handled the same as ARPA 32

R.Campbell outlined her experience working at the Town's Office Manager during COVID and how unnerving it was to have multiple members of the FD contracting COVID at the same time.

S.Fisher Agreed with the support for these employees and their devotion to the Town during COVID

Chief Moore: Spoke to why he submitted the request. Indicated he would allow it go to Town Meeting if that's what the ARPA Commission felt was appropriate.

J.Arpin, T.Sposato, R.Campbell and D.Latinscics indicated they would not be participating in a vote for this request should a vote occur.

*T.Smith made a motion to send ARPA 36 to Town Meeting. Second by E.Wieczenski*

C.Mailhos stated that she plans to go to this Town Meeting in support and explain why she supports. She would vote no if it went to approval by ARPA.

C.Mailhos: Yes

S.Cobb: Abstain

M.D'Amato: No

T.Sposato: Yes

TSposato: Yes

Donna: Yes

S.Fisher: Yes

T.Smith: Yes

J.Arpin: Abstain

E.Wieczenski: Yes

#### *Motion Passes*

The Commission had a discussion about allowing the initial survey phase only of ARPA 17 & 18 for RRAC to allow the project to commence.

E.Wieczenski referenced the Ordinance that was proposed to limit the dates and times meetings could be held.

The Commission held a general discussion about the meeting times of other Commissions and potential overlap with other Boards in Town if the day or time was to be moved.

#### **7. Present to Speak**

None

#### **8. Adjourn**

E.Wieczenski made a motion to adjourn, Second by M.D'Amato

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm. **Next ARPA Meeting: Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.** (9/5 meeting cancelled)

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TOWN CLERK