



Finance Committee

July 6, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so via Zoom or by telephone, see instructions below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

Members participating remotely: De Angelis, Griesemer, Schoen, Pam, Steinberg, non-voting members Hegner, and Kubiak

Members absent: Jane Sheffler

Others participating remotely: Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, and Minute Taker Scott Belden.

Video of Committee meeting: <https://youtu.be/zrs4kJrQp9g>

1. Call to Order

Steinberg declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting at 2:00 PM, confirmed all participants could hear and be heard, and announced audio and visual recording.

2. Propose a process to the Council to allocate ARPA funds

Steinberg opened discussion on the process to allocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Mangano shared his screen showing the ARPA Draft Process document (Steinberg & Magnano).

Members discussed the following:

- Who would be involved in the creation of an ARPA Action Plan
- The role of Town Manager in coordinating
- Addressing “unmet needs” in the Town with ARPA funds
- Using ARPA funds to address shortfalls in infrastructure and technology
- Specific wording within the document itself
- Adjusting the timeframe to capitalize on ARPA funds sooner rather than later

3. Discussion of immediate uses of ARPA Funds for Town Government needs

Mangano shared his screen again and gave a brief overview of proposed immediate uses for the ARPA funds in a spreadsheet. This would be allocated before a Town-wide committee discussion.

De Angelis asked if funding from ARPA could be used to replace the outdated Fire Dept ladder truck. Mangano responded that he would have to check if that would be an eligible use under ARPA.

Griesemer asked if any of the listed funds could be used to fund additional employees for CRESS. Mangano replied that he was awaiting further guidance, but that it was a tentative yes.

Griesemer asked if a parking fund also meant a transportation fund. Mangano replied that it did mean transportation funds. Griesemer asked if any of these could be used for smaller capital projects, or any additional firefighter positions, or if it could address any other staffing needs. Mangano replied that this list was not exhaustive of all Town needs, but rather the ones that required immediate attention.

Members discussed:

- Staffing issues in Town departments
- Issues related to the ambulance fees
- Whether a vote would be necessary to recommend the uses identified

MOTION: Schoen motioned, Griesemer seconded, that the Finance Committee affirms the list that was presented to the committee that the Town Manager and staff have identified as immediate needs.

Vote: 5-0-0, Non-voting members voiced their support.

4. Public comment

None

5. Topics not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before the meeting

Schoen shared her screen of edits to the draft of a report of June 29th's meeting and gave an overview of specific wording and paragraphs she added from the Treasury guidance.

Members discussed the issue of whether councilors should be added to the advisory committee. Steinberg noted that the creation of the advisory committee would be in January 2022, after councilor elections and it would not be a conflict of interest.

Hegner requested revision of a few different points regarding the development of the Action Plan. Members also advised against specific wording from the Treasury website as the discussion of use of ARPA funds was still in flux. Instead, this was revised to more general wording.

The Committee delegated final revision and the final report to the Council to Steinberg.

6. Adjourn

Steinberg adjourned at 3:12PM.

Draft Respectfully Submitted, Scott Belden, Minute Taker

Draft reviewed, revised approved 8/9/21 Schoen

Record of agenda packet materials and documents presented

ARPA Draft Process Updated 7.2.21

Finance Committee Agenda 07.06.2021

FY22 Identified Uses ARPA Funds