

ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee's Recommendation
to the Farmington Town Council
March 8, 2022

MOTION:

Agenda Item N-3

To approve the attached general recommendations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad- Hoc Committee.

NOTE: The Farmington Town Council established the ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee on September 14, 2021, to make recommendations to the Town Council in regard to the use of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, which is part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) received by the Town of Farmington.

The U.S Department of Treasury is tasked with the implementation and roll-out of the program. Farmington is anticipated to receive \$7,545,852.06 in funding through the SLFRF program to address the economic fallout related to the pandemic. 50% of the monies was received in June 2021 and the remaining 50% will be received June 2022. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

There are several ineligible fund uses. They include the following:

1. Contributions to Rainy Day funds, Reserves or Similar Funds
2. Deposits into Pension Funds - Offset a reduction in Net Tax Revenue
3. Non-Federal match for other Federal Programs

On January 27, 2022, the US Treasury released the Final rule for the program. The Final Rule takes effect on April 1, 2022, and delivers broader flexibility and greater simplicity in the program. The final rule provides the following:

1. Replace Lost Public Sector Revenue: A standard allowance for revenue loss of up to \$10 Million. An applicant can select between a standard amount of revenue loss or complete a full revenue loss calculation.
2. Respond to Public and Economic Impacts of the pandemic: In addition to programs and services, the final rule clarifies that recipients can use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response. For example, recipients may build certain affordable housing, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, and other projects consistent with final rule requirements.
3. Provide Premium Pay to Essential Workers: The final rule delivers more streamlined options to provide premium pay, by broadening the share of eligible workers who can receive premium pay without a written justification while maintaining a focus on lower-income and frontline workers performing

essential work.

4. Invest in Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure: The final rule significantly broadens eligible broadband infrastructure investments to address challenges with broadband access, affordability, and reliability, and adds additional eligible water and sewer infrastructure investments, including a broader range of lead remediation and stormwater management projects.

The Ad-Hoc committee met several times and considered eligible uses for the funds, as well as several requests received **by the Town Manager's office.**

Historically, Farmington has consistently focused on delivering the highest quality Town services while keeping taxes as low as possible. This philosophy has allowed us to maintain consistent fiscal health, kept the tax burden low for all residents and businesses, and provided a competitive business climate that has attracted both residents and businesses to relocate and expand in town.

At this time the Ad-Hoc committee has concluded that it has completed its work for the Town Council. The Committee stands ready to assist if the Town Council needs further information.

The Committee will be available to answer any questions that the Town Council may have at the meeting.

/Attachment

ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation to the Farmington Town Council
March 8, 2022

Recommendation:

The Ad-Hoc committee is recommending to the Town Council, that the ARPA funds be used to undergo large long term capital expenditures. The Ad-hoc Committee took into consideration the Town's successful fiscal philosophy, and latest US Treasury's Final Rule, which is broader and more flexible when making their recommendation.

Long term capital budgets would produce the following results:

1. Positively impact all taxpayers rather than specific requestees; enabling funds to be distributed in a more equitable manner
2. Allow the Town to fund projects that normally may not otherwise be afforded
3. Make Investments in transformational projects that will have town-wide long-term benefits

Since the funds do not have to be obligated by December 31, 2024, the Committee is recommending that the first policy decision that the Town Council address is whether the entire ARPA funds should be used for one large capital expenditure. Two potential projects could be the renovation of the 1928 Building or the Fire Department Building renovations. If the Town Council decides to fund more than one capital project the committee is recommending the following list for possible consideration. This list is not in priority order.

- 1- Paving of the Rails to Trails
- 2- School Parking Lots Paving
- 3- Stone House Improvements
- 4- Tunxis Mead Improvements
- 5- West Farms Mall Pump Station 2
- 6- Sidewalk Project/ Route 4

The Committee also recognizes the importance of public participation and recommends that the Town Council solicit the public's input as necessary related to the ARPA funds.

Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022

5. Human Relations Commission (Pawlik)

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) that Kayla Zimmerman be appointed to the Human Relations Commission for a balance of a two year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2022.

6. Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Management Plan (LFSWS) (Schlegel)

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) that Bob Hannon be appointed to the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Management Plan (LFSWS) for an indefinite term.

Adopted unanimously

7. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (Bernier)
8. Retirement Board (Huelin)
9. Retirement Board (Wlodkowski)
10. Town Plan & Zoning Commission – **Alternate** (Sanford)
11. Unionville Historic District & Properties Commission – **Alternate** (Marsh)
12. Unionville Historic District & Properties Commission (Martin)
13. Greater Hartford Transit District (Grow)

There was no action taken on Agenda Items L-7 through L-13

M. Old Business

There was no Old Business conducted.

N. New Business

1. To approve the purchase of property owned by Robert and Eileen Bland located at 8480 Meadow Road (11.27 acres) and 8481 Meadow Road (7.13 acres) for a total price of \$604,000.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item N-1

2. To authorize the Town Manager to sign a tax abatement agreement with New Horizons Village located at 37 Bliss Memorial Road in Unionville.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) for the Town Manager to sign a Tax Abatement agreement with New Horizons Village located at 37 Bliss Memorial Road in Unionville. The Motion is attached to these minutes as Agenda Item N-2.

Adopted unanimously

3. To approve the attached general recommendations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad- Hoc Committee.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to approve the attached general recommendations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Committee, Agenda Item N-3.

Adopted unanimously

4. To set a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Council's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to set a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Council's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023, attached as Agenda Item N-4.

Adopted unanimously

5. To accept the Annual Report of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to accept the Annual Report of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, attached as Agenda Item N-5.

Adopted unanimously

6. To cancel the March 22, 2022, Town Council meeting.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to cancel the March 22, 2022, Town Council meeting.

Adopted unanimously

7. To approve property tax refunds.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to approved property tax refunds, Agenda Item N-7

Adopted unanimously

O. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

P. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Maureen Frink, Clerk