

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 26, 2024

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VOTE: The appointments of Ahmed Ebrahim, Tom Lambert and Doug Jones were approved with 29 in favor and 6 opposed (Astarita, Britton O'Shea, Steele, Colburn, Ludwiczak).

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: APPOINTMENT OF MAURA GARYCH (D) ALTERNATE TERM NOV. 2021 - NOV. 2026 TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (TO FILL VACANCY)

This item was on the consent calendar.

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL: APPOINTMENT OF NICHOLAS J. LEEPER (D), TERM NOV. 2022 – 2027 TO THE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BD (TO FILL VACANCY)

This item was on the consent calendar.

ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “RESOLVED, THAT THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS BE REALLOCATED AS DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A.”

Cindy Waldron, District 3 moved this item as distributed, duly seconded.

Jeff Steele asked how the decision is made as to what projects receive the ARPA reallocation. David Becker Interim CFO said the decisions were made among the first selectman, controller, himself and the Town's financial analyst to allocate additional dollars to get project to completion. Their focus was on existing projects to bring them to some sort of resolution. They did not want to start new projects from scratch with the exception of the Jennings fence which was already in place as part of the town-wide guard railing and fencing project.

Jennifer Barahona, District 6 expressed her concern as an LSW regarding funding for mental health; she noted the town needs a robust plan to prevent teen suicide. In response to Ken Astarita, Mr. Becker explained money can be encumbered by 12/31 and expended next year for paving and sidewalks. There is money earmarked within the waterfall for the Rooster River.

Public Comment: Richard Dmochowski, FECB Secretary noted that the shoreline wave and erosion damage & resiliency study has now been changed to a town-wide study including inland rivers. Daphne Dixon suggested reallocating funds for more electric vehicles for Police non patrol and Fire administration.

Mr. Becker said the administration thinks the master plan including inland and coastal are interconnected and can be done with MetroCOG. We want to do this master plan appropriately; closing out the ARPA funds does not mean we are closing out the projects. The electric vehicles in the town hall fleet are actively utilized. There are some issues with departments that carry equipment such as the survey crew and inspectors. Electric vehicles are not pursuit rated so a hybrid solution would need to be investigated.

Jeff Steele said he wholeheartedly agreed with Rep. Barahona's comment regarding mental health issues.

VOTE: The ARPA reallocation resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “WHEREAS, ON AUGUST 21, 2023, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD MAY ENTER INTO AND

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DELIVER TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR A GRANT OF \$2,500,000 FOR THE ROOSTER RIVER FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT, AND WHEREAS, THAT BRENDA L. KUPCHICK AS FIRST SELECTWOMAN OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND DO AND PERFORM ALL ACTS AND THINGS DEEMED TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO CARRY OUT TERMS OF SUCH DOCUMENTS; AND WHEREAS, ON AUGUST 1, 2023, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD RECEIVED THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DRAFT AGREEMENT/GRANT/CONTRACT APPROVING THE URBAN ACT GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500,000 FOR THE ROOSTER RIVER FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT; AND WHEREAS, THE ACCEPTANCE OF A \$2,500,000 URBAN ACT GRANT TO RECEIVE, FUND AND EXPEND PROJECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROOSTER RIVER FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT OF WHICH ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF SAID PROJECT COSTS ARE PAID (REIMBURSED) BY THE STATE GRANT AND APPROPRIATED \$2,500,000 FOR SAID PROJECT COSTS; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM A. GERBER BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT AND SIGN ANY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT RELATED TO AND ANY ADDITIONAL URBAN ACT GRANT FUNDING ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROOSTER RIVER FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT.”

This item was on the consent calendar.

ITEM NO. 10 ON CALL:

TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS REQUESTED BY THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS: WHEREAS, EARLY VOTING WILL BE UTILIZED FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY TO BE HELD ON APRIL 2, 2024; AND WHEREAS, A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF 20,000 OR MORE MAY DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL VOTING LOCATIONS, THE FAIRFIELD REGISTRARS OF VOTERS HAVE DETERMINED AND AGREED TO DESIGNATE ONE LOCATION FOR EARLY VOTING; NOW BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD WILL HAVE ONE DESIGNATED EARLY VOTING LOCATION FOR THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY.

Liz Zezima District 4 moved this item as distributed, duly seconded.

VOTE: The resolution designating one early voting location for the 2024 presidential preference primary was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC
Town Clerk

ARPA										
Row	ARPA Project	Project	Budgeted Cost	Less: Expenditures	Less: Encumbered	Less: Requisitions	= Total Available In Munis as of 01/29/2024	(Excess Funds) - Removing Funding	Additional Funds Requested	Notes
1	Paving and Sidewalk Repair	81025	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 2,994,824	\$ 5,176		\$ -		\$ 4,873,651	Need funds to complete spring paving and sidewalks
2	Deck/patio behind senior center	81026	\$ 100,000	\$ 77,040			\$ 22,960	\$ (22,960)		The Deck/Patio project at the Sr. Center is complete
3	Senior Center Renovation	81028	\$ 850,000	\$ 313,190	\$ 352,759		\$ 184,051		\$ -	The Senior Center Renovation project is still underway. The Bathrooms project has been awarded and funds encumbered. Same for the Trane HVAC Rooftop units. The Kitchen was the third phase of the project and there will not be enough for the whole thing but maybe enough for new kitchen hood exhaust.
4	Downtown Resiliency - Permeable Surfacing	81004	\$ 1,420,000	\$ 104,940	\$ 189,060		\$ 1,126,000	\$ (776,000)		Leaving \$300K in for design for Phase 1.
5	Rooster River Detention Area	81007	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 405,079	\$ -		\$ 2,844,921	\$ (2,194,921)		We are leaving \$650K in the account to pay for open vendor invoicing and bidding for Phase 1.
6	Traffic Lights	81014	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 47,753	\$ 727		\$ 951,520		\$ -	This will cover Year 1 traffic lights, additional funding will be needed for other years.
7	High Intensity Wave and Erosion Damage & Resiliency Study	81018	\$ 400,000	\$ 23,140	\$ -		\$ 376,860	\$ (376,860)		As discussed with Mr Gerber, this project is closed.
8	Town-wide Guard Rail and Fencing	81019	\$ 200,000	\$ 102,441	\$ 82,500		\$ 15,059		\$ 30,000	In progress. The additional \$30k requested is for a gate at Jennings Beach.
9	Perry's Green Bulkhead	81023	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 86,573	\$ 14,273		\$ 899,155		\$ 600,000	We will need additional \$600,000
10	Sidewalks Stratfield	81029	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 829,214	\$ 320,786		\$ -			Completed.
11	ADA Consultant	81032	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 75,000	\$ (75,000)		currently being done in house.
12	Sidewalks Southport	81036	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 250,000	\$ (250,000)		closing project. Will revisit for funding.
13	Fire Station Rehabilitation	81024	\$ 550,000	\$ 335,130	\$ 103,308		\$ 111,562			In progress
14	Fire shift commander vehicle	81037	\$ 150,000	\$ 18,288	\$ 102,734		\$ 28,979		\$ -	Not expected to be over budget
15	Fire vehicle replacement	81040	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 60,000		\$ -	Not expected to be over budget
16	Non-profit Mental Health	81001	\$ 450,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -		\$ 150,000	\$ (150,000)		Julie DeMarco advised that "Child guidance is not able to use the ARPA funds. They don't have the numbers for residents who are under-insured or without insurance".
17	COVID Recovery Assistance	81002	\$ 250,000	\$ 187,346	\$ -		\$ 62,654	\$ 50,000	\$ -	As discussed, we are leaving \$12,654 to finish up and then closing this program out.
18	Jennings Beach Concession Upgrades	81008	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,180	\$ 13,385		\$ 11,435		\$ -	Remaining funds expected to be used up soon.
19	Tunxis Hill Park Playground	81009	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -		\$ -			Completed.
20	Melville Park Playground	81010	\$ 175,000	\$ 151,464	\$ -		\$ 23,536	\$ (23,536)		Completed
21	Lincoln Park Playground Replacement	81011	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	Completed
22	Dover Park Playground Replacement	81012	\$ 150,000	\$ 130,847	\$ -		\$ 19,153	\$ (19,153)		Completed
23	Highwood Park Playground Replacement	81013	\$ 300,000	\$ 268,395	\$ -		\$ 31,605	\$ (31,605)		Completed
24	Golf Course Maintenance Equipment	81022	\$ 230,000	\$ 223,977	\$ 3,068		\$ 2,955	\$ (2,955)		Completed
25	SGT Murphy Playground	81038	\$ 150,000	\$ 149,940	\$ -		\$ 60	\$ (60)		Completed.

ARPA										
Row	ARPA Project	Project	Budgeted Cost	Less: Expenditures	Less: Encumbered	Less: Requisitions	= Total Available In Munis as of 01/29/2024	(Excess Funds) - Removing Funding	Additional Funds Requested	Notes
26	Police headquarter Rehab	81039	\$ 350,000			\$ 35,500	\$ 314,500			The architects were recently awarded the bid. We have met with the architects to articulate our needs, and they are currently preparing schematic designs for us. Along with those designs will come construction documents that will allow us to gain a better understanding of a more accurate cost of the project.
27	Police Safe Corridor Program	81041	\$ 108,000	\$ 6,750	\$ 8,241		\$ 93,009			We are on budget and hope to have the majority of the project completed in the next couple of months.
28	Hybrid Meeting Technology	81020	\$ 400,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 160,031		\$ 64,969			on budget -As per Dave Kelley, he will need the entire amount budgeted to address the BOE equipment, if needed.
29	Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)	81003	\$ 175,000	\$ 99,584	\$ 52,248		\$ 23,168			Completed.
30	Body Cam/Dash Cam/Fasers	81005	\$ 3,700,000	\$ 2,104,697	\$ 1,600,623		\$ (5,320)			Completed.
31	Fairfield Theatre Company - free outdoor concerts	81015	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			\$ -			Completed.
32	Electric Car Charging Stations	81016	\$ 200,000	\$ 164,932	\$ 13,944		\$ 21,125			James Ryan advised that he is holding off paying the vendor until the chargers are repaired. He emailed for a status update and will advise when he hears back. We need to keep funds in account in case they do not repair the issues and he needs to have them repaired.
33	Electric/Hybrid Vehicles	81030	\$ 740,000	\$ 446,685	\$ 15,032		\$ 278,284	\$ (278,284)		As discussed, closing out. Eli has confirmed that no additional vehicles were on order.
34	Fill Pile	81006	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 46,370	\$ 186,830		\$ 766,800			In progress.
35	Burr Historical Gardens	81017	\$ 25,000				\$ 25,000	\$ (25,000)		This project was completed in house and these funds were no longer needed
36	Digitizing Records	81021	\$ 125,000				\$ 125,000		\$ 20,000	the additional \$20k is for the Assessors office. Ross Murray submitted for consideration a December 2022 estimate totaling \$16k. (we rounded to \$20k) related to the scanning of 4 decades of historic filed Assessor files.
37	HVAC at schools	81027	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000			\$ -			Project has been cancelled.
38	Town and BOE Fiber Optic Network	81031	\$ -				\$ -			As discussed with Mr. Gerber, we are closing out this project
39	Diversity & Inclusion Consultant	81033	\$ 75,000	\$ 10,249			\$ 64,751	\$ (64,751)		Completed.
40	Fairfield Museum	81042	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000			\$ -			Completed.
Total Allocated Funds			A \$ 23,548,000	\$ 11,269,027	\$ 3,224,724	\$ 35,500	\$ 9,018,749	\$ (4,241,085)	\$ 5,523,651	
Total ARPA Funds received			B \$24,830,566					C	D	
Unallocated ARPA funds			\$1,282,566					B-A		
Add: Excess Funds			\$4,241,085					C		
Total Unallocated/Excess Funds Available			\$5,523,651					D		