

Town of Mendon
ARPA Community Outreach Meeting

January 10, 2022

Members of Selectboard present: Larry Courcelle, Val Taylor

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator & Health Officer and Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Rich Carlson, Justice of the Peace, Teri Corsones, Planning Commission, Fred Bagley, Planning Commission, Mary Ann Reich, Deputy Health Officer, Liam Fracht-Monroe, Recreation Committee, Fred Bagley, Planning Commission

Residents presents: Megan Smith and Brian Sells, Mendon on the Move.

Visitors present: Eric Hall, Rutland Regional Planning Commission

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Office.

L. Courcelle welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of this meeting. The Selectboard is looking for input from the taxpayers and residents how ARPA funds should be used. Rutland Regional Planning Commission will assist the discussion and answer questions regarding the eligibility of project ideas.

ARPA is the American Rescue Plan Act which allocated \$1.25 billion to Vermont of which \$200 million is allocated directly to cities, towns and villages. Mendon will receive \$302,214.22 in two installments. The town has received the first half and the second half is expected in the summer of 2022.

The Selectboard has been advised to move slowly and cautiously with decisions. The funds need to be allocated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. The Selectboard is looking for input and ideas from the community how best to spent these funds within the guidelines of the ARPA final rule.

L. Courcelle introduced Eric Hall, Rutland Regional Planning Commission. E. Hall explained that the state's regional planning commissions were tasked with navigating the ARPA process for towns. The Vermont League of Cities and Town will be another resource for information, interpretation and education regarding project eligibility and reporting. Information about ARPA can be found at www.vlct.org. E. Hall provided an overview and update on ARPA's final rule. Reporting requirements and project eligibility and management is a significant factor in determining how ARPA funds are spent. The first reporting deadline is in April.

Ultimately, the Selectboard decides how to spend the funds. The Selectboard is soliciting input on how the funds should be spent.

Community Projects:

1. The town presented a list of municipal projects that appear to be eligible for ARPA:
 - i. Continued Digitization of Land Records
 - ii. Cyber Security Upgrades

- iii. Office Generator
 - iv. Hybrid Meeting System
 - v. Humidity Control for the Vault
 - vi. Air Purification System at the Town Office
 - vii. Folding Chairs (100 ct)
 - viii. Playground Equipment at Mendon recreation Area
 - ix. Water Filtration System at the Town Garage
 - x. Garage Expansion of 4th Bay
 - xi. Salt Shed Expansion
 - xii. Town Garage Air Exchange
 - xiii. Fuel Tank Protection
 - xiv. Storage Shed Improvements
2. Revenue Replacement – Standard allowance of up to \$10 million for revenue loss – this would generally include any service traditionally provided by a government including construction of roads, other infrastructure, provision of public safety.
 3. Eastridge Acres Homeowner Association Water System Upgrades estimated cost \$12,645 – R. Carlson requested support for water system upgrades for Eastridge Acres serving 35 homes in Mendon.
 4. Ventilation System at Barstow – M. Reich requested support to upgrade the ventilation system at Barstow to mitigate exposure to COVID-19 and other airborne hazards.
 5. Water System Upgrades at Barstow – Barstow requested support to replace lead pipes in the school.
 6. Grant Program for Businesses - M. Smith suggested a grant program for businesses.

M. Smith, along with other townspeople that have been active in the Mendon on the Move process, offered their assistance in creating a committee to determine what the ARPA funds should be spent on and present their findings to the Selectboard. F. Bagley supported M. Smith's offer and supported using ARPA funds to leverage other funding opportunities.

L. Fracht-Monroe, Mendon Recreation Committee, expressed his support for the replacement of the playground at the Mendon Recreation Area and offered to develop and present a comprehensive plan for the project.

E. Hall concluded the discussion by discussing that in the upcoming weeks additional clarification will be issued on the reporting requirements for ARPA. VLCT is expected to develop webinars to educate municipalities on the ARPA final rule.

L. Courcelle thanked everyone for coming and presenting ideas. Again, he reiterated that the town will move forward slowly with careful consideration. The timeline of such discussions has not been determined and don't expect to start talking about it at the Selectboard level until after Town Meeting and the election.

L. Courcelle moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. Motion seconded by V. Taylor. The Selectboard approved the motion.

Date Approved_____

Larry Courcelle

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Val Taylor