



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

The American Rescue Plan Working Group held a meeting Monday, March 11, 2024. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Newtown Municipal Center. First Selectman Capeci called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Jeff Capeci, Michelle Embree Ku, Steve Goodrich, John Fletcher, Derik Pisani, John Zachos
NOT PRESENT: Jill Soderholm

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Bob Tait, Public Works Director Fred Hurley and Deputy Fire Marshal Dave Ober

VOTER COMMENTS: none

Bob Tait gave an overview of the ARP program to the new work group. Newtown received \$7.6M through the grant to be encumbered before the end of this year and Newtown's goal is to spend the funds by the end of 2025 even though the ARP deadline is the end of 2026. Rules set for small towns means the funds can be used for any municipal needs. It makes sense to use them for one time purchases rather than operational needs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

1. Transfer Station Waste Cans:

Fred stated that they are needed at the transfer station. Cans are currently being leased and cost \$75 for each pull. Buying these allow Town employees to empty cans themselves saving the money. Life expectancy is 20 years, current ones are rusting and near end of life. Steve Goodrich moved to appropriate \$35,000 for the purchase of (2) 40 cubic yard waste cans and (2) 4 cubic yard waste cans to be used at the transfer station. Motion was seconded by John Zachos. All in favor.

2. P&R – Dickinson Park Bathroom Renovations:

Parks and Recreation has a Dickinson Pavilion renovation currently being done. The bathrooms are ancient and were not budgeted in the original project. This add on brings the bathrooms up to date along with the rest of the pavilion. Derek moved to appropriate \$50,000 for the renovation of the bathrooms at the Dickinson Park pavilion. Seconded by John Fletcher, all in favor.

3. Fire – repairs to aging apparatus; elimination of foam with banned additives:

The Legislative Council passed a motion for the ARP committee to consider paying for aging fire apparatus repairs along with state mandated removal of firefighting foam containing Toxic 'Forever Chemicals' PFAS using ARP funding. The committee decided since the removal of the foam is reimbursable from the state that ARP funds should not be used. No motion made.

4. Items added to the agenda then voted upon:

Michelle Ku moved to add the appropriation to Parks and Recreation of \$25,000 for a pool vacuum replacement and \$14,000 for a drum mulch head. Motion was seconded by Laura Miller. All in favor.
After some discussion, Michelle Ku moved to appropriate ARP funds in the amount of \$25,000 for a replacement pool vacuum and \$14,000 for a drum mulch head. Motion was seconded by Derek Pisani. All in favor.

Michelle Ku noted that Lois Barber had come to the committee and requested funds for Veteran banners to be placed on lamp posts during the winter holidays. Jeff Capeci said he would email her to ask her to come back to the work group to formally make a request.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Jeffrey Capeci