

American Rescue Plan Working Group
Council Chambers, Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose St Newtown Ct
Monday August 14th 2023

Minutes

Present: Ed Schierloh, Matthew Mihalcik, Erica Sullivan, Charles Gardner & Michele Ku

Absent: Sandy Roussas

Also Present: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Newtown Pickleball Association representatives (Howard Becker, Habby Farah, Bruce Goulart, Bill Manfredonia, Ed Miklaszewski and Elizabeth Lynch)

Call to Order: Dan Rosenthal called the meeting at 6:31 pm

Vote Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: None

Old Business:

Discussion and Possible action

1. Newtown Tutoring proposal from the Director of Human Services and the Board of Education Grants Coordinator

A memo was shared by First Selectman Rosenthal from the Board of Education Grants Coordinator, Judith DeStefano highlighting some options to modify the program. The tutoring program was original just advertised through teachers and staff which was difficult due to the ALICE stipulations. The second push to advertise the program only brought in 9 families expensing around \$1000. Judith worked with Natalie Jackson Director of Human Services to draft the proposal. **Erica Sullivan moved that we make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman to modify the Tutoring program to remove the income restriction on tutoring and add after-school homework club as proposed in the memo. Seconded by Charles Gardner. All in Favor (5-0), motion passes)**

2. Pickleball Presentation

Members of the soon to be formed Newtown Pickleball Association (NPA), a 501c7 origination, presented on the needs for permanent pickleball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport and will soon become a collegiate and Olympic sport. There are 8 temporary courts at Fairfield Hills which is part of a parking lot and 1 court at each Treadwell and Dickenson parks which are converted tennis courts. NPA has had meetings with Fairfield Hills Authority and Newtown Parks and Recreation regarding where permanent courts might be located. Ms Sullivan asked if there is current a fee to use the courts? There currently is not a fee though Parks & Recreation (P&R) is offering

lessons and the permanent courts could help P&R generate revenue. Habby from NPA said that the US Pickleball Assoc is starting to give out some funds via grants to organizations hence why they are forming NPA. There is roughly 400+ people in Newtown that are looking to play pickleball with others in town. Mr Ku asked if P&R thought there were any other locations at FHA. There are some possible other locations other than where the courts currently are. Those options are being explored by FHA and P&R. Ms Sullivan asked what is the life expectancy of a court? The courts last roughly 20 years based on the style of court that is being explored. There are 2 options post-tension concrete court and asphalt courts. A post-tension (PT) concrete court is named after the process used to construct it. Concrete is poured over cables or tendons that extend from one end of the court to the other. These cables are mechanically tightened, slowly, as the concrete hardens. This process creates tension loads within the concrete, preventing the large cracks that eventually occur in asphalt courts. NPA is seeking \$100,000 from the ARPA funds to help kick start their efforts to fundraise the balance needed to install 8 permanent courts. Ms Sullivan asked where the \$100,000 number came from. NPA said they backed into the number based upon what is left in ARPA funds. The funds would show that the town is committed to a private/public partnership supporting the sport. Mr Gardner asked about the current maintenance of the current courts. Mr Rosenthal stated that the Highway Department has spoken with our crack sealing vendor and they will be able to seal the cracks when it is not as hot outside.

Voter Comments: None

Adjournment: Erica Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. Seconded by Michele Ku, All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mihalcik

**These minutes are subject to approval by the American Rescue Plan Working Group
at the next meeting**

memo

Company name

To: Bob Tait
From: Judit DeStefano
CC:
Date: 5/31/2023
Re: ARPA Tutoring Funds

I have been working with Natalie Jackson to help allocate the LC ARPA appropriation – we would like to consider an expansion of allowable activities, as we are seeing challenges in allocating these services, while keeping in place the intended restrictions.

The motion made at the BOS (Aug 22, 2022) and LC (Sept 7, 2022) is broad:
"Mr. Charles Gardner moved to approve American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds related to Student Tutoring, Child/Youth Enrichment in the amount of \$100,000 for Student Tutoring support program ..."

But in supporting documentation and the discussion around it, it was clearly intended to support 1-1 tutoring for students who demonstrate a financial need (meet ALICE guidelines). We have struggled to get enough engagement to spend down the funds so want to do the following:

- 1) Lift the income-restriction on 1-1 tutoring eligibility.
- 2) Support the after-school homework club at Reed and the Middle School by offering NYFS funding to hire additional support staff (Paras and Honor-club tutors from the HS). They hope to make this enhancement sustainable for their own resources after these funds are depleted.
- 3) Provide after school SAT tutoring to be made available at no cost to HS students.

While it might not be necessary to pass any formal motions, we wanted to be transparent about the direction we would like to take the program and want to make sure those charged with allocating the funding are in support of the program expansion.

Thank you!

Judit DeStefano

Town of Newtown the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) ARP Working Group Worksheet - Up Till August 14, 2023							
ARP award amount		\$ 7,674,294			Total Expended		
Possible Uses:			Recommended	Approved	Up Till 8/14/2023 ,	Encumbered	Available (f)
General Government:							
1 Fairfield Hills – Replace Water Distribution System	1,500,000	v	1/27/2022	f	44,247	16,845	1,438,908
2 Fairfield Hills Campus Safety Improvements	20,000	v	12/12/2022	f	-	-	20,000
3 Edmond Town Hall Building Improvements	125,000	v	9/22/2022	f	-	47,843	77,157
Public Works:							
5 Multi-purpose Building Roof	190,000	v	1/27/2022	f	184,415	-	5,585
6 Public Works 6 Wheel 8 Ton Dump Truck	240,000	v	12/12/2022	f	-	103,210	136,790
7 Public Works Front & Bucket Loader	300,000	v	7/28/2022	f	298,635	-	1,365
8 Truck Washing Station - Design	50,000						
9 Transfer Station Site Improvements	200,000	v	4/11/2022	f	159,210	-	40,790
10 Municipal Building Improvements	100,000	v	4/11/2022	f	14,400	-	85,600
11 Sandy Hook Side Walks							
12 section #1 – Glen Road	215,000	v	9/22/2022	f	-	-	215,000
Public Safety:							
14 Fire Commission Fire Suppression Tank Repair	50,000	v	1/27/2022	f	33,153	-	16,847
15 Fire Company Grants (4 x \$15,000); NUSAR (\$15,000);	90,000	v	1/27/2022	f	84,623	-	5,377
16 Ambulance (\$15,000)							
17 Board of Fire Commissioners (5 x \$50,000) + \$50,000 (training)	300,000	v	1/9/2023	f	20,350	-	279,650
18 Police - New firearms, Equipment and Ammunition	60,000	v	4/27/2023	f	685	-	59,316
Recreation & Leisure:							
20 Parks & Recreation Truck with lift gate	90,000	v	4/11/2022	f	53,005	-	36,995
21 Dickinson Park New Pavilion (Refurbishment)	150,000	v	4/11/2022	f	9,536	150,000	(9,536)
22 Dickinson Park New Pavilion (Refurbishment) - add'l amount	50,000	v	9/22/2022	f		15,603	34,397
23 Bike Park at Fairfield Hills	75,000	v	9/22/2022	f	75,000	-	-
Health & Welfare:							
25 Housing Stalization Fund	20,000	v	9/22/2022	f	9,682	-	10,318
26 Senior/Community Center 14 passenger bus	90,000	v	5/9/2022	f	-	-	90,000
27 Additional Amount Required (due to current quote)	20,000	v	2/13/2023	f	-	-	20,000
28 COVID supplies/expenses	40,000	v	1/27/2022	f	412	-	39,588
29 Child/Youth Enrichment Fund (Newtown Human Services Dept.)	20,000	v	7/28/2022	f	20,000	-	-
Community Center:					sent to united way for program		
31 Community Center Outside Storage Building	75,000	v	4/11/2022	f	5,750	-	69,250
32 Community Center Patio	155,000	v	4/11/2022	f	155,000	-	-
33 Community Center/Senior Center Handicap Doors	16,000	v	4/11/2022	f	16,000	-	-
Education:							
35 Hawley School HVAC/Ventilation project	2,500,000	v		f	2,500,000	-	-
36 Student Tutoring Support Program (Newtown Human Services Dept.)	100,000	v	7/28/2022	f	1,260	70	98,670
37 Middlegate School Playground	33,000	v	2/13/2023	f	-	-	33,000
38 Project Adventure Course Installation & Upgrade	94,000	v	2/13/2023	f	-	83,826	10,175
Borough:							
39 Sidewalk Construction and Related Safety Improvements	200,000	v	3/13/2023	f	-	-	200,000
Function Wide:							
42 Reimburse the Town Medical Self Insurance Fund							
43 for COVID Expenses (since 3/3/2021)	325,000	v	1/27/2022	f	325,000	-	-
	Appropriated	f			Expended	Encumbered	Available
	7,443,000				4,010,363	417,396	3,015,241
	Amount Available after Appropriated	231,294		Prior Yr 2022-23	3,059,596		
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