**Town of Hartford**

**Selectmen workshop with Budget Committee**

**To discuss the use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

**March 2, 2022**

**7pm @ Hartford Town Hall and via Zoom**

**Approved Minutes**

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lori Swan, and Town Clerk Lianne Bedard

Present via Zoom: Budget Committee members Doreen Maxwell, Arthur Harvey, Elise Harvey, Christine Mumau, Lennie Eichman, Robert L’Heureux, and residents Richard Dyer and Tim Kirwan.

Lee called the workshop to order at 7:05pm

The Board of Selectmen has asked the Budget Committee to attend these workshops to discuss the proposed use of the $128,217.58 which the town will receive from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

The town has received half-$64,108.79 and will receive the remainder by July of 2022.

The town must approve designations of the funds at town meeting.

Funds must be awarded by December 31, 2024.

Funds must be expended before December 31, 2026.

There will be an article on the annual town meeting warrant for approval by the voters on June 18, 2022.

A public hearing will be held on June 2, 2022 to discuss proposed use of the funds.

Lianne and Lennie have viewed the recent training on ARPA reporting.

Christine shared information on how the City of Auburn is using their funds such as an outdoor stage and large TV screen, enhancing the food insecurity program, and essential pay for fire and police staff.

Discussion included items such as a new furnace, culverts on Pratt Hill Rd and Goding Road, new town office, adding shower and larger bathroom in town hall, small businesses, charging stations, walking trails, town beach improvements, essential pay, and broadband. A local daycare submitted quotes for heating and fire alarm system. It was suggested that she research the Maine Dept. of Health and Human Service grants for daycares.

The members offered their suggestions for use of the funds:

Cathy: Culverts

Lee: Broadband

Lennie: Walking path

Elise: New town office and culverts

Lori: New town office

Chris: Town hall bathroom/shower

Doreen: New town office

Bob: no suggestions

Resident Richard: New town office

Resident Tim Kirwan: Culverts

Lianne will send the following questions to MMA Legal:

Can we expense funds from ARPA before town meeting and then pay them back?

Can we replace the town hall furnace with ARPA funds?

Can we fund projects with ARPA funds if we are receiving additional funding such as grants?

Can we use ARPA funds to replace culverts/bridges that are not budgeted for specifically in our annual road budget?

Can we improve the Boardwalk to the town beach and create a much needed parking area with the help of ARPA funds?

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7pm at the Hartford Town Hall and via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Minutes approved by:

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Lee Holman Date

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lori Swan Date