

TOWN OF WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT
Public Hearing
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Multi-Purpose Room
Mulvey Municipal Center
And Via ZOOM

First Selectman called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance included First Selectman Bishop, Selectman Hall, Selectman Fuchs, Peter Schaumburg, Kit Bishop, Bonnie Hall, Marilyn Ozols, Jim Crawford, John Palermo, Mary Ella Luft, Gregg Prevost, Elizabeth Carpenter, Courtney Burks, Sarah Zaiantz., Kristen Meyer, Carol Mullaney, Ken Butterworth, Vincent Gentile, Jim Dahl, Chris Ehlert, Jill Brainerd, Karol Gelotte, Andy Schatz, Chet Bialicki, Donna Castracane, Greg Prevost, Marc Farnoli, Mark Delcavo, Mike McKenna and approx. 12 other audience members.

Mr. Bishop read the notice to the Public Hearing as follows:

“Notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6 p.m. via ZOOM and in-person in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, Connecticut, to solicit the following:

The Public’s input/suggestions on the use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.”

The Town of Westbrook has or will receive approximately \$2 million in ARPA funding (both town and county funds).

At previous meetings, input from staff and Board/Commission chairmen was received relative to the use of ARPA funds.

At this evening’s meeting, members of the staff and public identified items for ARPA funding consideration including a presentation from Health and Human Service staff, a request from the Ambulance Association, a request for funding to facilitate the digitalization of Land Use records and funding to address the Town Center vis a vis sewer/septic.

Below is a list of all ideas, to date, that have been made for use of the ARPA funds. All requests will be reviewed by the BOS for consideration and to determine the next steps in the process.

Suggestions for use of ARPA Funds

Digitalization of Land Use Records	\$70,000 option \$8,000 option	\$3000 yr. maintenance \$3000 yr. maintenance
Health & Human Services	\$100,000	
IT – facilitate staff working from home Additional equipment for hybrid meetings	\$50,000	

WPCA – Pass. Nitro. @ West Beach	\$50,000 to \$80,000
WPCA – Town Center system	\$TBD
Conservation Commission	
Open Space maintenance	\$30,000 to \$50,000
Fire Dept. – Water Tank	\$150,000
RiverCOG	15% of total county money for possible regional project
Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantry	\$10,000 – Refrig. Truck (request made to all towns)
Assessor	Investment in small business to increase Grand List
Police	3 rd shift staff, vehicle, training, DUI enforcement Temporary summer officers
Facilities	personnel for day time cleaning, PPE, ventilation system at town hall

Ambulance

- Reimburse payroll/stipend program/seed money for hourly staffing – return fund balance to required levels (DPH regulation) - \$250,000
- Reimburse facility upgrades mandated by Fire Marshal – bunk rooms/bathroom - \$100,000
- Essential worker stipend - \$100 per month per employee who worked during Pandemic – averaged 30 employees per month - \$60,000
- Automated CPR devices for each ambulance - \$30,000
- Automatic stretcher loading system for 2nd ambulance - \$30,000
- P25 Radio system upgrade - \$150,000
 - Radio infrastructure throughout the town should be upgraded ASAP.
- Replace current 2nd line ambulance - \$250,000
- Replace current extrication gear for all employees - \$50,000
- Establish contract with Town to offset cost of staffing ambulance with hourly staff on primary ambulance – annual budget \$600,000 – town share would be \$300,000 - \$25,000 per month – 24 hours per day coverage guaranteed

Garden Club – subsequent to the Public Hearing, the Garden Club has requested funds for maintenance of town areas; i.e. the Meadow Walk.

Mr. Bishop thanked all in attendance for their participation in this evening’s meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Executive Assistant