



Town of Paxton  
697 Pleasant Street  
Paxton, MA 01612

## **American Rescue Plan Act Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, April 4, 2022**

**Meeting Location: John Bauer Senior Center 17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612**

Members Present: Carol Riches, Julia Pingitore, Cindy Love, Travis Thibault, Larissa Kennedy, Mark Savasta

Meeting called to order at 11:36am.

- **Motion (CR) seconded (TT) to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2022. Some spelling changes. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Review previously approved project**

#### **Emergency Management Trailer**

- **Julia Pingitore** – With the ARPA Final Rule, we can use lost revenue in any way that does not negatively impact the town in the future like debt, etc. More projects are available to put forward like Capital one-time needs. After reviewing the current projects, I think that we should scrap the Emergency Management Trailer project. This could open up availability for more projects like some on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. I spoke with Jeff Olson and he agrees.
- **Motion (CR) seconded (TT) to approve the reallocation of \$90,000 that was set aside for the Emergency Management Trailer to be used at a later date. Discussion:**
- **Travis Thibault** – What is the reason for scrapping the trailer?
- **Julia Pingitore** – The trailer would be big, difficult to store, difficult to upkeep.
- **Carol Riches** – The idea for the trailer was originally to be used for pandemic related purposes but was then expanded to include use by the Water Dept, Fire Dept etc. But we now think we can make better use of the money. We have nothing signed up yet.
- **Julia Pingitore** – Mike has a trailer with cones and vests from a grant. We could put ARPA money towards beefing this up. \$5,000 would go a long way. We have tents for COVID purposes that have floors and heaters and supplies for a command center, just no bathroom. We can keep a generator from a fire truck trade in.
- **Carol Riches** – The Town Meeting warrant has two articles from Capital Exclusions and two articles from the Capital Fund that these reallocated funds could go towards. We can revisit after the Town Meeting. For Stormwater we will need \$136,000 to get us into compliance and once we are up to date it will be easier to stay in compliance.
- **Cindy Love** – Should we hold the \$90,000 until after the town meeting?
- **Carol Riches** – The Capital Projects on the Town Meeting warrant are Cruiser Leases, Phone System and Mower. Lights for Tivnan Field and Cameras/Security for the school to be voted as a Capital Exclusion. We should wait until after the Town Election. We also

need to set aside \$5,000 for a potential audit and we can release some extra funds from closed projects.

- **Mark Savasta** – The State is granting a total of \$1 million for the Bridge Academy, we could possibly receive \$3,000 per officer.
- **Unanimous, all in favor.**

#### **Sign for the Senior Center**

- **Julia Pingitore** – Serrato came back with an additional \$1,000 to be used for granite posts for the Senior Center sign. The updated quote will be \$4,500.
- **Motion (TT) seconded (CR) to approve the increase of the Senior Center Sign budget to \$4,500. Unanimous, all in favor.**

#### **COVID tests**

- **Julia Pingitore** – We still have a lot of COVID tests available.
- **Cindy Love** - I have about thirty left.
- **Carol Riches** – We can give some to the library.
- **Travis Thibault** – Do you see any further surges happening?
- **Julia Pingitore** - We do not see any expected surges due to the high immunity in the U.S.
- **Cindy Love** – Some seniors are now receiving their fourth shot.
- **Julia Pingitore** – If you are 50+ you are eligible for the 4<sup>th</sup> shot. If you are on the fence, get the booster now instead of waiting for a possible new Omicron specific vaccine.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 11:00am.

- **Motion (CR) seconded (CL) to adjourn the meeting at 12:05pm. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa Kennedy

Town Accountant, on behalf of the American Rescue Plan Act Committee