



Town of Paxton
697 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612

American Rescue Plan Act Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

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

Members Present: Heather Munroe, Julia Pingitore, Cindy Love, Travis Thibault,
Larissa Kennedy, Mark Savasta

Meeting called to order at 11:06am.

- **Motion (CR) seconded (TT) to approve the meeting minutes from April 4, 2022. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Update on current projects

- **Cindy Love** – Still need to purchase additional food for the food pantry. Howe's Farm stand is going to donate fruits and vegetables when they are in season.
- **Julia Pingitore** – We need to encumber our funds because there is talk that the state may pull back funds that have not been allocated yet.
- **Motion (TT) seconded (MS) to return unused funds from the school supply project back into the unused ARPA funds. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (TT) seconded (MS) to return unused funds from the COA ramp project back into the unused ARPA funds. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Julia Pingitore** – The online permitting is complete with no remaining balance.
- **Julia Pingitore** – The Light Department has put in a request that we assist with paying the electric bills for those residents that cannot afford it.
- **Travis Thibault** – Personally, I do not think this is the best use of funds. The Light Department can put a meter on a house to limit the use, similar to what the water department does.
- **Motion (TT) seconded (CL) to return unused funds from the COA front step project back into the unused ARPA funds. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Travis Thibault** – For the West Street water main we are waiting on the engineering to be finalized. Keep funds till we have final balance.
- **Julia Pingitore** – The Water town generator is not complete but we should be getting some money back on that.
- **Mark Savasta** – The EOC buildout is 90% done. There are just a few more things that are needed. Will use the remaining funds.
- **Julia Pingitore** – The electronic signs are in production.
- **Travis Thibault** – We are putting bids together for the tree removal. We have marked four hundred tree that should come down. Recent training on the bucket truck to help with tree removal in house. All of the funds will be expended on this project.
- **Julia Pingitore** - Public health agent. Leave for now until the Board of Health meets. We did receive the grant for the Covid tests so that will go back into ARPA.
- **Mark Savasta** – I currently have one person in the Bridge academy. There is a grant that I can apply for through the state for \$3,000. Can I do repairs with these funds?

- **Julia Pingitore** – Yes, as long as it applies to the academy. If there is a grant that comes in at a later date for a project that we have allocated funds to, should the money go back into ARPA? The Committee agreed that the money should stay where it was allocated to.
- The Wi-Fi project for the library is still being worked on.
- **Travis Thibault** - Stormwater management. No funds expended yet but in the process. Funds used to get us into compliance.
- **Mark Savasta** – Police cruiser is all set and funds have been expended.
- **Julia Pingitore** – The stairs to the mechanical room at the Public Safety Complex are in fabrication and should be installed soon. All the funds will be used.

Review current proposed projects

- **Travis Thibault** – I would like to use any funding that we have towards stormwater compliance first. We are looking at \$136,000 to get us into compliance. The state can charge \$25,000 a day for not being in compliance.
- **Julia Pingitore** – Street house number signs. Hold off on this for now.
- **Cindy Love** - The sheriff's department will make them for you. I have the form that people can fill out to request one.
- **Julia Pingitore** - RML – stem program and literacy kits. Library will fund these.
- **Mark Savasta** - Dispatch window attendant. My budget was cut so I do not have the money to put someone there. I have someone almost every Saturday. Would like to have someone there on Sundays. \$18,000 total needed to cover Saturday and Sunday.
- **Julia Pingitore** - Garage floor resurfacing at the Public Safety Complex. This is not as much of an issue from a covid perspective anymore but the floor is still in tough shape. The HVAC is in need of repair as well.
- **Travis Thibault** - Town common renovation. We are getting about \$250,000 in funding through the state. I hope to use some of this for the town common engineering.
- **Julia Pingitore** - Premium pay for essential workers. The Select Board has not approved yet. Wanted to see what the state was going to do first.
- **Mark Savasta** – I am more concerned about covering pay for people that are out due to Covid than getting premium pay.
- **Julia Pingitore** - Workers' comp does not cover infectious disease, however if someone is out because they contracted it through work then workers comp may cover some of the expenses.
- **Julia Pingitore** – The telephone system was approved in the budget at Town Meeting so we can take it off list.

Rejected projects

- **Julia Pingitore** – We had two capital requests for the school. The school has taken care of the phone system. We may have a Special Town Meeting for the cameras or we could consider this project under ARPA. Project cost is \$50,000.
- **Julia Pingitore** – The premium pay, improved ventilation and connectivity devices for the library have all been passed over. The Town Hall exterior has been dropped as well. The acceleration program for grades one to five at Paxton Center School have been picked up by the school. The request for tents and heaters has been obtained through CARES so those have come off as well. The Tasers were taken off because the Police put them in their budget. The baseball field lights did pass at the poles so we could fund it but it does have other funding options now. I will update the rating sheet and future projects to be rated and then we can see how the final funds will be allocated.
- **Travis Thibault** – We can remove the chipper from the list of requests. Also, the Engineering with complete streets can be removed as well. If you keep up to date with

your complete streets program and are shovel ready you then have access to funding of up to \$400,000 over four years.

- **Mark Savasta** - About how much do we have left for available funds?
- **Julia Pingitore** – About \$103, 000.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 10:00am.
- **Motion (MS) seconded (TT) to adjourn the meeting at 12:41pm. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons,
Executive Assistant, on behalf of the American Rescue Plan Act Committee