



Town of Glastonbury

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PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING NO. 2
12-07-2021 Meeting

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

December 3, 2021

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: American Rescue Plan Act – Public Information Hearing

Dear Council Members:

A public information hearing (PIH) was held at the October 12th meeting to hear public comment on potential allocation of America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies awarded to Glastonbury. A second PIH is scheduled for Tuesday evening. As background, I have attached the preliminary outline of suggested projects, programs, and services discussed on the 12th along with the presentation. This information was intended to serve as a starting point for discussions to be supplemented by public comment and comments by Council.

Background information as follows:

- Glastonbury to receive \$10.2M allocated \$5.1M in May of 2021 and 2022.
- Communities to allocate funds by December 31, 2024 and expend by December 31, 2026.
- Funds to be allocated over broad categories including (various subsets and developing information):
 - Support public health response
 - Water and sewer infrastructure
 - Negative economic impacts
 - Broadband infrastructure
 - Replace lost revenue from pandemic
 - Equity focused services
 - Premium pay for essential workers
- ARPA funds may not be allocated to federal grant match requirements, debt service, pension, or financial reserves.
- Review of interim guidance by Treasury indicates a variety of subsets and eligible uses including investment in human services, recreation, improvements to parks, playgrounds and buildings, water/sewer and drainage projects, affordable housing, and other eligible uses.
- Final guidance by the Treasury is expected by calendar year end.

Additional information can be provided as may be requested and to follow up Tuesday evening's discussion.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

RJJ/sal
Attachments

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Preliminary Outline of Suggested Projects, Programs and Services
December 7, 2021**

Broadband Infrastructure - Fiber Connections *

- Extend fiber connection to properties at Welles Village, Knox Lane and Center Village to include common areas and individual residences.
- Evaluating improved broadband infrastructure for seniors isolated within the community.
- Upgrade Wi-Fi system at RCC to better support mass vaccination clinics.
- Improve capacity for remote work by Town staff.

Affordable Housing

- Potential land acquisition and other activities in support of affordable housing as satisfying ARPA guidelines.

Riverfront Community Center *

- Improve outdoor activity spaces through shade structure, pavers and other improvements to support programs and activities held outdoors as weather permits. Supports greater social distancing and less reliance on indoor spaces for activities and social interactions.

1361 Main Street *

- This is the building formerly occupied by the Holland Brook Audubon Center soon to be acquired by the Town. Review by Recreation, Senior and Youth & Family staff indicates potential for programs and activities at this location providing greater space than now available. Important resource at times when schools not available as experienced during pandemic. Potential for mentorship program described below through use of kitchen, outdoor spaces, etc. Improvements would include ventilation, handicap accessibility, interior renovations and related work.

Williams Memorial *

- The pandemic reinforced the limited meeting space at Town Hall to achieve social distancing for the variety of groups typically convening in Meeting Room A (e.g. Board of Finance, Beautification Commission, Historic District Commission and others). Council Chambers is typically reserved most nights of the week. Proposal is to make improvements to the Williams Memorial immediately south of Town Hall to provide additional public meeting space. The former library/media center at the Williams Memorial totals 1800 square feet as compared to Council Chambers (1420) and Meeting Room A (399). Improvements could include HVAC and accessibility to begin transitioning this space for public meetings and gatherings.

Public Parks *

- Systemwide work to replace and improve public playgrounds, provide shade structures and ADA access to athletic fields, playgrounds, etc. Examples Addison Park, Welles Park and others.
- Project also contemplates upgrades and improvements to facilities supporting the Welles Village Activity Council for Youth (WACY) and other youth activities held at the Housing Authority facility. Potential satellite location for Town food bank.

Youth and Family Services *

- The pandemic confirmed the importance of outdoor space for programs, activities and performances. The "backyard" of the Youth & Family Annex was successfully used for a variety of meetings and performances since March 2020. Proposal is to provide ADA accessibility and other improvements in support of this use.

Naubuc School *

- The Board of Education completed an independent analysis to reconfigure the open space classroom area at Naubuc School and is proposing allocation of ARPA monies for this purpose. A preliminary all-in estimate for all work totals \$3.2M and involves some 17,000 square feet of work.

Note: This project is likely eligible for a school construction grant of 33.57% of eligible project costs.

Boathouse (Revenue)

- Phase II of the Riverfront Park does not receive support through the General Fund and operating and maintenance costs are through the Special Revenue Fund. Primary revenue is derived through rental of the meeting and banquet space. This use was greatly diminished since March 2020 and the proposal is to allocate ARPA monies to offset revenue losses.

Youth Mentorship **

- This is a program proposed through Youth & Family Services to provide staffing to establish a Youth Mentorship Program to work with at risk young people, young people with uncertain plans following high school, isolated and under-served.

Youth Dial A Ride **

- Provide transportation services to young people lacking transportation to programs and activities, job interviews, tutoring, athletics, wellness/therapy visits, and other activities for which transportation may not be available. Proposal involves purchase of van and staffing to coordinate. As with mentorship, intended for under-served population.

Sanitary Sewer System *

- Potential to allocate funding in support of the master sewer plan. For example, allocate funds in \$1M increments and develop priorities in cooperation with master plan and WPCA.

Drainage *

- Allocate ARPA monies to supplement the capital program for drainage projects. For example, drainage improvements from Spring Street Extension along House Street to Salmon Brook.

Grants to Non-Profits and Other Agencies Serving Glastonbury Residents

- Requires criteria and application/selection process.

Small Business Assistance to Support Businesses Most Impacted by the Pandemic

- Requires criteria and application/selection process.
- Identify form of assistance – grants, loans, other.

Public Water Service – Uranium

- Given the potential uses of the \$10.2M in ARPA monies and order of magnitude of cost estimates for public water service, a meaningful contribution was not thought reasonably possible.

Traffic Signals – Camera System *

- Potential to replace traffic camera systems to include traffic management and recording system. Would need to be linked to pandemic related matters – police investigation and enforcement.

Green Infrastructure – Climate Change

- Potential to support ongoing energy efficiency and alternate energy initiatives. For example, additional EV charging stations for Town operations and work with business and residential property owners to support energy efficiency and favorable climate change.

Bike/Walk *

- Evaluating opportunity to support bike/walk initiatives for sidewalks, multi-use connections, etc.

Social Services

- Potential to allocate monies for direct assistance to families in need to supplement Glastonbury Gives Program. Subject to details

**Identified or to be identified through capital improvement program*

***Subject to success, creates future operating budget obligation*

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING

OCTOBER 12, 2021

\$10.2M Awarded to the Town of Glastonbury

- \$5.1M – May 2021
- \$5.1M – May 2022
- Special Revenue Fund Established
- Allocate - December 31, 2024; Expend - December 31, 2026
- Interim Final Rule – Developing Information
- Preliminary Reporting – April 2022

Eligible Uses – Broad Categories

- Support public health response
- Water and sewer infrastructure
- Negative economic impacts
- Broadband infrastructure
- Replace lost revenue from pandemic
- Equity focused services
- Premium pay for essential workers

Ineligible Uses

- Unfunded Pension Liabilities
- Matching Funds towards Federal Grants
- Interest or Principal on Outstanding Debt
- Contribute to Financial Reserves or Rainy Day Funds

Preliminary Concepts

- Broadband Infrastructure – Fiber Connections
- Affordable Housing
- Riverfront Community Center
- 1361 Main Street
- Williams Memorial
- Public Parks
- Youth and Family Services
- Naubuc School
- Boathouse
- Youth Mentorship
- Youth Dial A Ride
- Sanitary Sewer System
- Drainage
- Grants to Non-Profits
- Small Business Assistance
- Public Water Service – Uranium
- Traffic Signals – Camera System
- Green Infrastructure – Climate Change
- Bike/Walk
- Social Services

Next Steps

- Iterative Process
- Public Comment
- New and Revised Concepts
- Fine Tune Cost Estimates
- Develop Plan