

## RICHMOND FINANCE BOARD

This meeting was held in person on June 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM EST

### MINUTES

- Call To Order Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM
- Roll Call Present: Steve Rego, Guy Rizzo, Thomas Schipritt, Laura Rieger, Karen Pinch and Laura Kenyon  
Absent: Helen Drew
- Election
- Minutes Minutes from Mar 14, 2022 meeting reviewed and approved. Motion by Steve Rego, second by Tom Schipritt to approve. Abstain by Guy Rizzo. Other 3 Ayes..
- Correspondence
- New Business
- Other Business Steve R explained purpose was to re-visit ARPA funds possible expenditures. We are focusing on FY23 and will provide recommendations, guidance to the Town Council.
- 1) Dog Park—Laura K suggests reduction from 18K to 10K( grant received).
  - 2) Discussion and explanation of Streetscape for BPZ—deferring
  - 3) School Safety—unknown amount—need more info
  - 4) Laura K informs that DPW can hold off on compactor.DPW repaired existing equipment. Added to deferred list.
  - 5) Chlorination System removed from list of town hall recommendations. This is expense of users/clients and can be paid over 20 years. Possible grant. Laura R feels far more residents have to shoulder 100% of expenses for their wells/water and using ARPA funds is unfair to them.
  - 6) Laura K suggests setting aside 500K towards other projects that may require matches for grants. Money available—we need to pursue
  - 7) Police Station 161,500. Agreed to leave that in place.
  - 8) Wood River Health—Karen P informed that WRH received a million dollar grant **after** they requested ARPA funds. In addition, there is still uncertainty which percentage of their clients are from Richmond. Not recommended.
  - 9) YMCA—information provided suggests money is more for operating costs. Also not recommended.
  - 10) Chariho LL—approved 5K with recommendation that they re-apply for another 5K in FY24 with a detailed list of equipment needed. Guy R says they probably lost a lot of fund raising opportunities due to Covid. All agreed.
  - 11) HV ambulance and Fire/Ambulance combined. Steve R acknowledges these vital services and how lucky we are to have volunteers. Discussion of how Hopkinton ( who shares these groups with us) have decided to give each entity the same amount, 25K, for a total of 125K. All agreed.
  - 12) Maddie Potts Foundation—extensive discussion and difficult decision. Board suggests Town Council decide with additional info on finances. Money should

not be awarded just to replenish the foundation account. If building is complete, how was it paid for? Tom S would like to see updated financials as he considers it is a worthy project. All agreed.

- 13) Community Advocate Dept—members of Finance Board are not in favor of using ARPA funds to create new administrative positions. Discussion of Karen P fielding calls and Police Dept providing rides for doctor appts. All agreed neither should be happening. Town website has Resources page and Senior Center Assists many, what is the extent of what would be useful. Perhaps a position to help, possibly as a stipend or even a volunteer position. Decided to reduce to max of 40K.
- 14) Community Center—build or buy and renovate? How big? A lot of unknown . Do we possibly co-ordinate with Hopkinton? Laura K suggests we combine items for town projects into one line in the amount of 1.5 million that would then be in reserve and available in emergencies over next couple of years. Since we have time before it has to be committed to a specific project, it makes sense to save some in reserve. All agreed.
- 15) Radio Tower—necessary project, but is it all Richmond’s responsibility? It would be regional and possibly also State of RI EMA necessity. Grant or State project?
- 16) Water line connection to Town Hall—maybe a grant but will be done when roundabout is begun by RIDOT in spring, 2023.
- 17) Town hall generators—current are old and can’t afford to have fail.

Public Forum

Helen Sheehan of Richmond spoke on Hope Valley Ambulance—said that if you subscribe to their service, there is no fee paid for it. Discussion on insurance re-imburements which are too low.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Laura Rieger, second by Tom Schipritt. All Ayes.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM EST

\* (V)

May require a vote

Minutes reviewed and approved: /r