

To : RTM
FROM: Jack Klinge
SUBJ: Minutes of LRP Committee Meeting January 26, 2022

Meeting was held via ZOOM - agenda topic was discussion of ARPA Projects presented by Town BOS covering overall objectives and strategy for selecting project list.

In attendance - Presenting Jen Tooker Westport First Selectperson joined by Andrea Moore Second Selectperson. From RTM - Members of LRP Committee and RTM Committee Chairs. From public - Mr. Kirby

Jen Tooker spoke for about 35 minutes detailing the rationale behind selection of Projects included in the two spending tranches which encompassed the full \$8.4MM granted to Westport by ARPA. Primary strategy was focused on a conservative approach selecting projects already identified in the town five year capital forecast plus shovel ready immediate town needs for health and welfare of residents. It was noted that the RTM had already approved a total of \$785,000 for these short term projects. Tooker stressed that projects were to be capable of short/medium time to execute and would not entail major on-going investments in the future. All projects deemed to fall under current ARPA project guidelines as confirmed by Town Financial Manager and staff.

The follow up Q & A sessions with RTM members concentrated in several areas:

Confidence that projects did meet ARPA guidelines - some RTM members were concerned that they may not

More detailed rationale as to why certain projects were selected, and what other projects had been considered

The ability of the RTM to initiate early review of all projects before they reached the BOF for approval. This would be a slight deviation from normal process if Committees were involved prior to detailed final project specs and RFP content. There was a sense that early involvement would result in better project content and make for easier review by Committees prior to presentation to full RTM for approval.

This writer (RTM Long Range Planning Committee Chair) concluded that a follow up meeting with same attendees would be productive to confirm all projects met ARPA specs based on presentation by Town Administration officials and to address feelings by several in attendance that the projects did not do enough to meet Town social, health and quality of life basic needs as a result of COVID. The LRP chair wrote a letter to Jen Tooker expressing these thoughts.

No votes were taken: Submitted by Jack Klinge LRP Chair