

**RTM Education Committee Meeting
November 30, 2022**

AGENDA ITEM # 3

On November 30, 2022, members of the Board of Education (BOE) and administration met with the RTM Education Committee via Zoom to discuss and vote on an appropriation pertaining to the use of ARPA funds for sensory equipment and outdoor learning space for the elementary schools. Present were Tom Scarice, Elio Longo, Lee Goldstein, Liz Heyer, 7 of the 8 members of the Education Committee (Lauren Karpf, Lou Mall, Candace Banks, Brandi Briggs, Kristin Schneeman, Kristin Purcell; Jack Klinge), and Wendy Batteau.

Mr. Scarice presented on behalf of the administration. He explained that the elementary schools wanted to address social and emotional needs exacerbated by the pandemic. This request was different from the middle school and high school requests because the five elementary schools have differing needs and thus required a more decentralized approach to this project.

Coleytown, Long Lots and Saugatuck seek indoor and outdoor sensory equipment to allow for movement throughout the day and to supply sensory feedback to young students.

Greens Farms and Kings Highway seek outdoor learning spaces in order to extend learning outdoors, both throughout the year and during summer programs.

The funds requested total \$216,056 but will be allocated as follows: \$52,627 to Coleytown; \$52,193 to Saugatuck; \$43, 148 to Kings Highway; \$40,488 to Long Lots; \$27,600 to Greens Farms.

ARPA funds are appropriate for these projects, as sensory equipment and outdoor classrooms will help to address the social and emotional impact of the pandemic on children. These projects would not fit into the annual operating budget.

The committee discussed security concerns with the outdoor classroom and learned that the SRO walked the classroom sites as part of this process. We also discussed ongoing maintenance costs and repairs, which should both be minimal and will be covered in the annual budget as needed.

The committee asked questions about how these projects were chosen and learned specifically how they would benefit the children.

Kristin Schneeman made a motion to approve \$216,056 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to enhance social needs of students at the elementary schools. Candace Banks seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Submitted by Lauren Karpf, Chair, Education Committee

**RTM Education Committee Meeting
November 30, 2022**

AGENDA ITEM # 4

On November 30, 2022, members of the RTM Education Committee met with the Chairperson of the LLS Building Committee via Zoom to discuss and vote on an appropriation for \$482,000 to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for an Engineer Assessment, Design Consultant, and Project and Construction Managers for the feasibility study for Long Lots School. Present were Tom Scarice, Elio Longo, Lee Goldstein, Liz Heyer, 7 of the 8 members of the Education Committee (Lauren Karpf, Lou Mall, Candace Banks, Brandi Briggs, Kristin Schneeman, Kristin Purcell, Jack Klinge), and Jay Keenan.

Mr. Keenan explained that the appropriation is needed to complete initial assessments and feasibility studies to determine if renovation or a rebuild is the best approach for Long Lots school. Initial assessment activities will focus on reviewing documents of the current architectural, structural, civil, and mechanical/engineering/plumbing (MEP) systems; on-site assessments of wall, structural, roof and MEP systems; and final reports and recommendations. The feasibility study will focus on defining recommendations from the building assessment, including schedule and costs for different options.

The committee asked questions about anticipated completion dates of the above assessments and reports. Mr. Keenan explained that he expects a report in January with the initial assessment. The RFP for architects and construction managers should be completed in January. The feasibility study with costs and schedules is expected to be presented to the funding bodies in late spring.

Mr. Keenan explained that while the state grant documents are due in June, we can get reimbursed even after completion, and thus we are not constrained by the June deadline.

Jack Klinge made a motion to approve these funds. Lou Mall seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Submitted by Lauren Karpf, Chair, Education Committee

Joint RTM Finance and Public Works Committee Meeting

Replacement of Existing Sidewalks Leading to Bedford Middle School, Coleytown Middle School, and sections along Riverside Avenue.

November 22, 2022

Meeting via Zoom

The RTM Finance and Public Works Committees met to consider an appropriation of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account 30503310-500328-10108 for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in the existing network program. This project is for sidewalks leading to Bedford Middle School, Coleytown Middle School, and sections along Riverside Avenue.

In Attendance for the RTM Finance Committee :

- Seth Braunstein – Chairman
- Noah Hammond
- Nancy Kail
- Don O'Day
- Stephen Shackelford

In Attendance for the RTM Public Works Committee:

- Jay Keenan – Chairman
- Lori Church
- Andrew Colabella
- Peter Gold
- Jack Klinge
- Dick Lowenstein
- Matt Mandell
- Don O'Day

Other Westport Officials in attendance:

- Pete Ratkiewich – Public Works Director

DISCUSSION SUMMARY AND VOTE

This project will repair and replace approximately 4000 linear feet of sidewalks leading to Bedford Middle School and Coleytown Middle school as well as some random sections of sidewalk along Riverside Avenue.

The work will be bid out using the town's normal purchasing procedures in January or February and the work is expected to be completed this upcoming summer as well as the next summer. Unlike the previous sidewalks' project there is no STEAP funding available to help offset these expenses.

This a part of the town's ongoing effort to maintain its roughly 24 miles of sidewalks. Director Ratkiewich also provided some context for the progress the town has made in improving the overall condition of the sidewalks which continues to be a priority.

The current cost of building these sidewalks is approximately \$87.50 per linear foot which is about \$4 per foot more expensive than the previous sidewalk project on our agenda this evening due to the fact that this covers different areas of town as opposed to all of the work being done in one contiguous area.

Questions asked by RTM members were largely focused on other areas of town when additional work is desired to either improve existing sidewalks or where RTM members expressed a desire to see more sidewalks installed. Director Ratkiewich explained that the maintenance is always ongoing (it takes time to get to all 24 miles) and that there should be additional discussion on future sidewalks as part of the anticipated results from the exhaustive work the First Selectperson has been leading to determine town transportation/infrastructure priorities.

The Finance Committee motion was made by Nancy Kail and seconded by Don O'Day with a unanimous 5-0 vote to approve.

The Public Works Committee motion was made by Lori Church and seconded by Andrew Colabella with a unanimous 8-0 vote to approve.

Report Submitted by Seth Braunstein
Chair – RTM Finance Committee

RTM PUBLIC WORKS & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE; PW & Finance – Wednesday, November 22, 2022

TIME; PW/Fin - 7:00 PM meeting start, ZOOM

PURPOSE; Review requested expenditure by Public Works Department for appropriation for the replacement of the Vac-Con Jet Truck.

PRESENTED BY; Peter Ratkiewich, Public Works Director

Mr. Ratkiewich requested an appropriation of \$550,000.00 for the replacement of the 2009 Vac-Con Jet Truck. This truck is a front-line piece of equipment which is used primarily to maintain the Town's gravity sewer mains and keep them in serviceable condition as well as clearing a sewage backup or clog. The vehicle has a high-pressure jet system as well as a powerful vacuum system to push through and clean out sewer mains and manholes

The current 2009 International Truck is showing signs of wear and fatigue and it is anticipated to have to undergo numerous repairs over the next few years. The replacement truck will be a Freightliner Vac-Con Jet Truck. The 2009 truck will be auctioned and based on recent sales it is expected to get a pretty good price which will offset the cost of the new truck. There are additional costs associated with outfitting the truck with lights, radios, vehicle locator, etc. as well as a contingency which rounds the cost up from \$500,000 to \$550,000. The new Vac-Con Jet-Truck is currently in the 5-year Capital forecast for fiscal year 2024 and committing to purchasing now will lock in the price for purchase in the Summer of 2023.

The Public Works Committee voted 7-0 to recommend and the Finance Committee voted 5-0 to recommend approval to the full RTM.

In attendance;

PW Comm - Jay Keenan (chair/reporter), Don O'Day (both), Matt Mandell, Peter Gold, Lori Church, Dick Lowenstein, Andrew Colabella, Jack Klinge

Finance Comm – Seth Braunstein (chair), Nancy Kail, Noah Hammond, Stephen Shackelford