

RTM Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022

The call

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Board of Education, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$105,973.50 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase hardware for VOIP Phone System for 5 schools for town wide cyber security.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Board of Education, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$63,200.00 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, for equipment, installation, and training to implement a High and Low Rope Adventure Learning Program at Staples High School.
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$1,431,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for construction to extend the Sanitary Sewer System to Whitney Street, Roseville Road, Fernwood Road, Plumtree Lane, Pamela Place and Ledgemoor Lane.
4. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$3,100,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for construction to extend the Sanitary Sewer System to Evergreen Avenue, Evergreen Parkway, Tamarac Road, Lone Pine Lane, Gorham Avenue, Compo Road North and Brookside Drive.
5. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to ratify and approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Westport and the Westport Municipal Employee Union Local 1303-387, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.
6. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to ratify the decision by the Planning & Zoning Commission to "Opt-Out" of Accessory Dwelling Unit Requirements per Public Act 21-29.
7. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to ratify the decision by the Planning & Zoning Commission to "Opt-Out" of Multi-family Parking Requirements per Public Act 21-29.
8. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the RTM Transit Committee, to re-appoint Peter Gold to serve as Director to the Westport Transit District with a term beginning May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2026.

The meeting

Moderator Jeff Wieser:

Good evening. This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order and we welcome those who are joining us this evening. My name is Jeff Wieser and I am the RTM Moderator.

A notice about procedures for this electronic meeting: Pursuant to Sections 163-167 of Senate Bill 1202, there is not a physical location for this meeting. This meeting is being held electronically and live streamed on *westportct.gov* and shown on Optimum Government Access Channel 79 and Frontier Channel 6020. Meeting materials will be available at *westportct.gov* along with the meeting notice posted on the Meeting List & Calendar page. Members of the Westport electorate attending the meeting by telephone or video may comment on any agenda item. Comments will be limited to three minutes. Emails may be sent to *RTMmailinglist@westportct.gov*, which goes to all RTM members. These emails will not be read aloud during the meeting but you can be sure that we will all receive them if they have not already been sent.

Tonight's invocation will be delivered by Bill Harmer, the Executive Director of the Westport Public Library well known to all Westporters. Bill came to the Westport Library in 2015, having served as Director of the Library in Chelsea Michigan, near Ann Arbor. He has presided over the transformation of our Library and is responsible for the magnificent space and programming that we have come to enjoy since the Library reopened. Mr. Harmer, the floor is yours.

Invocation, Bill Harmer, Director, Westport Public Library:

Thank you for having me. It's wonderful to be here with you this evening and to have the honor of providing a few thoughts for reflection. I'll share a quote with you from a publication on "civic engagement" by the Urban Library Council, which I turn to often when I need inspiration or to remind myself of my personal and professional responsibilities as a citizen and community member living in a democracy.

"Complex 21st century problems cannot be solved by government alone and often cross government boundaries. These challenges suggest that giving people a voice and a role in decisions that affect their lives is a worthwhile, necessary, and urgent investment"

"Civic engagement is among the most enduring cornerstones of democracy representing promise, opportunity and responsibility all at once. Research and experience tell us that engaged and empowered citizens generate optimism about the future, produce good decisions on meeting tough community challenges and contribute to local economic vitality."

In Westport, our locally elected and appointed leaders recognize the value of directly engaged citizens and we seek always to maintain our commitment to these values. Citizen involvement is central and contributes to a strong sense of community, builds trust between the public and the government, and produces better solutions to local problems. We here in Westport believe that in order to be dynamic and engaging as social institutions we must learn to listen to and be responsive to the community's needs, as our citizens define them, in ways that remain relevant to them. From Town Hall to the RTM, to the Senior Center, to our Public Schools and local Library, this commitment to engagement has helped all of us stretch and grow. The pandemic tested our response to the unexpected. The library and our local institutions and citizens

recognized our current needs during the crisis and together we centered our efforts and utilized our resources effectively to meet those challenges. Our Westport institutions and leaders focused on and succeeded in demonstrating what it means to be models of citizenship during a time of crisis, and we remain dedicated to supporting community engagement during the current times of political unrest and divide. We have so much to be proud of and so many reasons to remain true to the values of our democracy: *Promise, Opportunity, Responsibility, Optimism*. I have seen these values demonstrated again and again in our community. I arrived in Westport seven years ago, at about this time of year. This community, the library, the extraordinary staff, and every single one of you have exceeded my expectations and have provided a warm and welcoming vehicle for my own enrichment. I'd like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to all of you. I have grown as a librarian *and* as a human being. I am honored to be your Library Director. I can't wait to see what the future holds in store for all of us and how I can continue to serve this amazing community. Thank you.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you, Bill. You are of course welcome to stay and listen to tonight's proceedings, but suspect you might have other things to do in your evening! Good luck this weekend. We now have our zoom-era Mandell Montage Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Matt Mandell for creating this video.

The minutes of the March meeting have been posted on the Town website. Are there any corrections to those minutes at this time? Seeing none, the minutes are accepted as submitted. If you later find any corrections, please inform Jackie Fuchs, Jeff Dunkerton, or me.

Announcements

I will start the minutes, noting that Mark Friedman has resigned from the RTM. I would like to thank Mr. Friedman for his service and hope that at some point he might be back again serving on this legislative body as he will always continue to serve Westport. The process, through the Town Charter, made the seat available to Ross Burkhardt who has agreed to serve for the remainder of this term, so we welcome Mr. Burkhardt back to the RTM. There have been some changes to the committee assignments as a result of these changes, so please take note as the Town Clerk's office forwards those assignments. Also, I sent around an email today that I would like to get the Rules Committee in shape. The process, for the newcomers, is the four members in each district get together and appoint somebody to the Rules Committee, one per district. The standard has always been that the person selected is the largest vote getter or the person with the longest seniority in the RTM. We leave it up to the districts to decide how that works and who should be on the Rules Committee. I also pointed out in the email that the Rules Committee hasn't met in the last three, four or five years because we haven't really changed the rules and there hasn't been a cause for it. I would love for that to get sorted out so we have that set up. If you haven't already done it today, do it tomorrow. That would be helpful.

Congratulations to our April Birthday celebrants. This month we recognize Lauren Karpf, Stephen Shackelford, and Andrew Colabella - Happy April Birthdays!

RTM Announcements

Jimmy Izzo, district 3:

The Public Protection Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, April 20 via zoom at 7 p.m. to discuss and recommend to the full RTM the Police and Fire budgets. Anyone who wants to join in, you're more than welcome. Committee members, I sent out the notice. Please let me know if you can or can't make it.

Matthew Mandell, district 1:

The first announcement is that the great salad contest is over, a very collegial event. It was more of a promotion of our restaurants. I'll list the winners real fast:

Best Caesar Salad – Romanacci
Best Chef Salad – Joe's Pizza
Best Cobb Salad – La Plage
Best Deli Salad – A&S Fine Foods
Best Greens Salad – The Porch
Best Make Your Own Salad – Parker Mansion
Best Mediterranean Salad – Manna Toast
Best Unique Salad – Capuli
Honorable mention - Calise's

So if you didn't get a chance to eat salads, go try any of these eight places. They make great salads and I even lost a little weight in a time of eating so much. Next year we bring back the pizza contest.

The second announcement is very apropos of Bill Harmer who gave us the invocation. He has put together a magnificent compilation of stuff for this weekend called VersoFest. It is the first of its kind in the library. It's sort of like "South by Southwest." I call it "West by Westport." There will be demonstrations and interviews and anything else related to music. Come on out and see it. There are three concerts that the Chamber of Commerce co-produced with the library: Led Zeppelin on Friday night, Chris Frantz of the Talking Heads presents new and upcoming music and on Sunday night we have Selwyn Birchwood with an opener of Drop Party which is a local band and that is going to be an amazing show. So, if you want to see some music come on out to VersoFest. It's a great thing for Westport and shows what the library has to offer. Staying with concerts, Supper and Soul finally returns after the pandemic with a show on May 7 and that is with Chris Jacobs who played in the 2017 Blues, Views and Barbecue. We are having him back. It's an amazing act. So, come on out to Supper and Soul. If you love music, Westport is the place to be and the Westport Library. So, thank you very much everybody and I'll see you at this event.

Kristin Mott Purcell, district 1:

Library, Museum and Arts will be meeting April 25 at 4:30 in the McCall Room in the Library to review the budget for the library and Earthplace. Also, I want to piggyback on Matt Mandell's mention of the VersoFest. In addition to the excellent music, they have

curated a number of excellent speakers. Jane Green will be hosting a kickoff for her new book on brunch Sunday morning starting at 11 o'clock. That should be an excellent event. I invite everybody to join for all of VersoFest but also for the brunch, specifically, with Jane Green.

Seth Braunstein, district 6:

Just a quick reminder for the members of the RTM Finance Committee, we will have two meetings in the month of April, at least. Please mark April 13 at 7 p.m. for the meeting with the Board of Education to consider their budget and make recommendations to the full RTM and please hold April 26. We will be doing the same thing with the town budget. The timing for the meeting on the 26th with the First Selectwoman and the Department Heads is still being determined. If you can respond to my email regarding the timing, that would be terrific.

Wendy Batteau, district 8:

The Environment Committee will be meeting to talk about the Conservation budget on April 12 at 7:30 p.m. For anybody who hasn't responded, if you could do so, that would be great. And I will refrain from mentioning any concerts I know about...

Jay Keenan, district 2:

The Public Works Committee will meet on April 19 in person in room 201 to discuss the Public Works and Sewer budget.

Lauren Karpf, district 7:

I am still waiting for a few members of the Education Committee but it looks like we will have a quorum for April 12 to review the Education budget.

Jessica Bram, district 6:

The Health and Human Services Committee will meet for our budget meeting on April 27 at 7:30 pm. I believe it will be virtual.

Mr. Wieser:

It will be a busy month leading up to our next meeting. Assuming that all those meetings get held and that the business of our meeting is completed tonight, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTM will be our first budget session on Monday, May 2nd at 7:30 p.m. To commemorate our return in person, for those comfortable, we are planning a bit of an early get together at 7 p.m. to reacquaint ourselves with each other, and in many instances to meet our new members who have never served in the auditorium. I look forward to seeing everyone there. I will also explain to the new members about the seating. It's been so long since we've been in the auditorium but so many of the returning members have their favorite seats so the new members get to hold back just a little bit until everyone gets seated in their favorite spots and then pick your favorite seat. I also thank Liz Milwe and Kristin Purcell for planning an in person social event for RTM members on Tuesday May 10. I sent details on that last weekend and we hope to see you all there. Will spouses be there?

Ms. Purcell:

Spouses will be there and we'll be circulating a signup sheet for food.

Mr. Wieser:

A pot luck sort of thing.

Lastly, from me, we have a bit of an odd situation tonight because of scheduling difficulties and the fact that items #6 and #7 are not urgent. They can be approved any time before January 1, 2023. Because of the planning difficulties with Planning and Zoning, we will probably be delaying them until June. We will revisit those when we have a little more time.

There were 33 members present. Ms. Meiers Schatz and Ms. Briggs notified the Moderator that they would be absent and Ms. Milwe was also absent. Mr. Hammond notified the Moderator that he would be late and Ms. Gertzoff and Ms. Newman were also late.

The secretary read item #1 of the call - To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$105,973.50 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase hardware for VOIP Phone System for five schools for town wide cyber security.

Presentation

Elio Longo, Schools Chief Financial Officer:

Joining me this evening from the Board of Education Administration are Superintendent Tom Scarice and from the Board of Education, Chair, Lee Goldstein. The first request is ARPA funding in the amount of \$105,974 to support phase III of a voice over internet phone system. The partnership between the Board of Education and the town of Westport is dating back 14 years to 2008. In fiscal year '21, the Board of Education invested approximately \$35,000 for phase I of III of a phone replacement system for town-wide security upgrades. In fiscal year '22, we invested an additional \$100,000 at Staples High School and Coleytown Elementary School. Phase III, we would like to commence at this time to address five schools: Bedford Middle School, Greens Farms Elementary School, Long Lots Elementary, Saugatuck Elementary and the second floor of Kings Highway School for approximately \$106,000. The town of Westport is underway with phase III and the security patches during the current fiscal year. The Board of Education, our security patches are valid until August 2023. It is not a time-sensitive issue with the Board of Education; however, we would like to stay on a parallel path with the town of Westport such that all of the security upgrades coincide and follow the same timeline. That being said, in the fiscal year '23 budget, we did not request an appropriation for this specific line item. Working with Mr. Conrad, he identified that under ARPA, there is a provision for security improvements in a municipality. So, we respectfully request your support for \$105,974 to allow phase III and further coordinate with the town of Westport.

Committee reports

Education Committee, Ms. Karpf:

The Education Committee met on March 29. The attendees are listed in the report. As Elio explained, this funding request covers a VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phone system in five schools. By way of background, the Board of Education and the Town invested in a VOIP system in 2008. However, those handsets and the associated software are outdated and need to be replaced. The new handsets have been purchased in phases, in a school by school manner, and this request funds the third and final phase for the remaining schools. The money for this project is not included in the 2023 Board of Education Operating Budget, as it was determined to be an appropriate project for ARPA funds. The committee determined that this request is a good use of ARPA funds, as it directly resolves a cybersecurity issue. The new handsets are necessary as the current software leaves the Board of Education and the Town vulnerable. Further, since this is a joint system with the Town (covering Town Hall, the library and the police and fire stations), the Town systems cannot be fully upgraded until the Board of Education handsets are replaced. The software security patches are only available until 2023. Lou Mall made a motion to approve this request; Candace Banks seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0, with no abstentions.

Finance Committee, Mr. Braunstein:

I'm not going to say much that hasn't been said already so I'm not going to say anything, frankly. Between what Elio provided and what Lauren provided, every salient point has been illuminated adequately. Members attending were Seth Braunstein, Nancy Kail, Cathy Talmadge, Noah Hammond and Don O'Day. Nancy Kail made the motion to approve this request which was seconded by Cathy Talmadge. RTM Finance voted unanimously to approve on a 5 - 0 vote.

Mr. Wieser:

We now turn to the Westport Electorate: Members of the electorate who raise their hands to speak during the public comment period for each agenda item will be called upon by the Moderator. Please remain on mute until you are recognized to speak and when you are finished speaking. Public comments are limited to three minutes. We ask that you avoid repeating comments already made.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Board of Education, the sum of \$105,973.50 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase hardware for VOIP Phone System for 5 schools for town wide cyber security, is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Wieser:

Are there any comments from RTM Members? Members are asked to raise their hands electronically with one of the two buttons – either a blue hand or a yellow hand - and wait to be recognized. Be sure your mike and video are on when it is time for you

to speak, and state your name and district. Please limit your remarks to 10 minutes in the interest of fairness to others who wish to speak. Be sure your mike is turned off when you are finished. If you have further remarks to share at another time, please be as concise as possible.

Members of the RTM – no comments

Mr. Wieser:

We have been instructed by the Town Attorney that all votes in electronic meetings must be roll call votes, unless they are unanimous, so I am going to ask first if there are any objections to this request? Are there any abstentions? Seeing none, all in favor of the request?

By roll call vote, the motion passed 32-0. (Ms. Gertzoff and Ms. Newman arrived before the vote.)

The secretary read item #2 of the call - To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$63,200.00 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, for equipment, installation, and training to implement a High and Low Rope Adventure Learning Program at Staples High School.

Presentation

Mr. Longo:

The second request from the Board of Education for funding this evening is for ARPA support for a curriculum enhancement initiative. At this time, I'll ask Superintendent Scarice to provide a summary update.

Superintendent Tom Scarice:

Thank you Elio and thank you everybody for the vote on the first item. Very much appreciated on behalf of the Board of Education and the schools. The Board of Education historically did receive funding under the Coronavirus Relief Fund Act and the ESSR Funds. Back in October or so, there was discussion about the use of ARPA funds and, at that time, the Board of Finance and the First Selectman had approached the Board of Education and pointed out that quite possibly the demographic that was impacted the most from the pandemic were our children, our youngest learners, our teens and so forth. So, looking at the spirit of the ARPA funds, the criteria, we tried to look at some programs that matched that and thought that anything we could do that could benefit our kids who are benefitting the community at large as well and this is one of them. The Education Committee and the Finance Committee both had reviewed this project. The Board of Finance did as well, obviously. This is a program that we had sought for years and it truly meets the needs of social and emotional development for our kids; incredible opportunities for leadership development; incredible opportunities for collaboration; really important human skills, I call them, rather than soft skills and all done in an experiential adventure learning kind of way. Ideally, it's going to be outside of the campus, the Staples campus, that's our first preference. Again, it truly fits the spirit

of ARPA. This is a program that we have looked to incorporate as part of our high school PE program for quite some time; very excited to possibly bring this to our students at Staples. The presentation at the Education and Finance Committees, we went into great detail of what the program does entail. We're available to answer any questions tonight.

Committee reports

Education Committee, Ms. Karpf:

This was the same meeting of the Education Committee on March 29. I'll quickly read the background although it was covered perfectly. The Adventure Learning Program proposed for Staples is a direct response to the impact of the pandemic on students. Specifically, it will support social and emotional development through a curricular program allowing students to work as a team to plan and problem solve, while also teaching leadership skills and perseverance in a hands-on environment. The adventure course will be a core program within physical education at Staples. It will include an adaptive program for students with disabilities. The course also provides low ropes and planning/problem solving roles for students who choose not to participate on the high ropes. Moreover, youth groups and adult groups throughout the community will likely be able to use the adventure course in a structured environment with trained staff. The adventure course will not require any changes to current Insurance. Maintenance costs will be minimal. The course will be securely locked when not in use. The package provided by High 5 Adventure Learning Center includes installation of the high and low elements as well as training and support for staff members. They will certify the course annually. All service and maintenance of the equipment will be completed externally and not by Board of Education or Town staff members. Members of the committee spoke very highly of this request. Members stated that the course addresses social and emotional needs created by the pandemic, provides stress relief for students, brings some "fun" into our curriculum, and provides for team building and collaboration. One member felt that these needs could be met instead via field trips, and wondered whether this equipment is needed to achieve the stated goals. Candace Banks made a motion to approve this request; Lisa Newman seconded the motion. The committee voted 5-1 in favor of the motion, with no abstentions.

Finance Committee, Mr. Braunstein:

Our committee met on March 23, the same meeting that addressed the previous item. I think the only thing that I would add to the comments that Lauren made and were presented by Superintendent Scarice was the breakdown of the \$63,000 expense. Roughly \$56,000 covers the installation and the remaining \$7,000 is used for the training of the staff. The only other item I would add for the context here, on the recertification, it was explained to us that it would be a few thousand dollars that would be funded on an annual basis funded through the professional development account through the Board of Education budget. Other than that, I'd say that everything else was covered. We voted unanimously on this as we did on the previous vote. Noah Hammond made the motion to approve this request which was seconded by Nancy Kail. RTM Finance voted unanimously to approve on a 5 - 0 vote.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Board of Education, the sum in the amount of \$63,200.00 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, for equipment, installation, and training to implement a High and Low Rope Adventure Learning Program at Staples High School, is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

Ms. Bram: Is it an indoor or outdoor facility?

Mr. Longo: Outdoor facility.

Mr. Scarice:

The plan is for it to be outdoors on the campus. There could be indoor elements. I shared at the committee level that when I was a middle school principal, I did have this course indoors. Our designs and our plan is for outdoors.

Ms. Bram:

That's great for COVID criteria. But I wanted to say that the ARPA funds are specifically targeted to mitigate the negative effects of COVID on the community and I don't think that anybody felt the negative effects as much as our children and our teachers so I wholeheartedly and I appreciate the chance for teambuilding because the kids were separated from each other. I think this is a great program and I enthusiastically to support it.

Mr. Izzo:

I had said before in your committee meeting what a great thing this is and I want to thank you guys from the Education Committee, the Board of Education, Tom and everybody else. This is the kind of outside the box thinking we need and the education these kids need besides the classroom. Thank you, guys, for going there and getting this ball rolling. Hopefully, we can build on this and get more stuff for these kids.

Ms. Batteau:

I'm afraid I am on the distaff side here. I'm partway reading a long study about who suffered in terms of the children. It seems to be the youngest children, as far as I've gone, children who weren't able to see other kids' faces and who need social and emotional needs circulate there. Also, they mention that kids who were cooped up at home really didn't have much in the way of athletics, particularly only children who were now scared to go out on the playground. I look at this rope course and I don't really understand what it's going to do to help those children. I can certainly see kids who are afraid to go on the high ropes being stigmatized by the other kids, perhaps made fun of. I just don't see that this is a terrific use of this money. In one part of the introduction it says that this is in direct response to the ARPA funding mandate and in another part it said that the Board of Education had been trying to get funds for this project for four

years which contradicts the former. I would rather see us spend money on something that is going to bring the kids together, help them to socially and emotionally meld with each other; for little kids to understand how they relate to each other. This seems to be just another set of gym equipment and I don't see that it's speaking directly to the need.

Christ Tait, district 1:

Back in my day, we used to have something similar to this at Bedford Junior High School at the NIKE site. We had our wood shop teacher put two wires together between a tree and you'd slide across, you had your legs up. If it didn't happen, we laughed a lot. I'm sure insurance didn't like it back then. That being said, I kind of understand the concept of kids like me that needed a little bit of an outlet so I don't disagree with this. Back then, you had some sort of community involvement with the school so there was a little shared cost there, again, I do not disagree with what you're trying to achieve here but going forward, this is going to be on the budget. You're going to have staff. You're going to have maintenance. Will it be part of the budget?

Mr. Longo:

Going forward, the ongoing costs are minimal. It is for maintenance and inspections. As far as staffing, it will be part of the PE curriculum. The costs are minimal and will be absorbed under our operating budget.

Mr. Tait:

Fair enough and I appreciate that. As for somebody who witnessed it back in the day, I get it. I wish there was more community/school involvement, shared costs, but that's just me. But I appreciate it. Superintendent and Elio, thank you very much.

Jaime Bairaktaris, district 4:

I work at a school, we call it Project Adventure, we have the indoor and outdoor ropes course system. I think we've had it for decades because I went through it when I was in school there. It is probably the number one thing that kids talk about, even now in our 20's going into our 30's that we remember. And as someone who is terrified getting onto a ladder, there is definitely hesitation on everyone's part when you get up into the course up in the woods but it's also one of the most amazing experiences because the teachers handle it perfectly. If anything, it allowed us to be comfortable with our friends and experience school in a different way. We are meeting a bunch of kids who maybe don't want the competitive sports but they want to be active. This is a fantastic way to get them outside into a new environment and challenge them a little bit. If they are not comfortable with it, the teachers are trained because they are teachers, they know the kids already, to really hone in on that and make it something where they have to work together, not competitively, it's to support each other, literally sometimes depending on the equipment. Congratulations to all the kids who get to use this because I get to see it all the time now that I work in that school and it's one of the highlights of the spring when we can get to the outdoor course. So, well done. I'm very excited to hear this is coming to Westport.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you Mr. Bairaktaris and congratulation on your St. Baldrick's hair growing in pretty quickly. It looks good. Well done. You raised a lot of money. Congratulations.

Dick Lowenstein, district 5:

I have some general questions and one specific one. First, Ms. Karpf, there was one negative vote on your report. I want to understand who was against the proposal on your committee.

Kristin Schneeman, district 9:

It's fine. I'll out myself. It was me, Dick, and I'll make a comment later.

Mr. Lowenstein:

More information than anything else. A couple of general questions... We had the opportunity on the website to list all the ARPA projects and they had both approved projects and projects in process. I want to know since most of them are town projects, I want to ask the education administration if they have any other projects that have not yet come forward that are in process.

Mr. Scarice:

Yes we do. We brought forward, we haven't been to committee yet on this so I don't want to go into too great of detail, but middle school level, outdoor learning experience to expand opportunities for kids during their down time outside. That one is very different, Mr. Lowenstein, because that one is truly a community/school project. It's not isolated to just the curriculum and just the schools.

Mr. Lowenstein: And nothing else on your list at this point?

Mr. Scarice:

We have elementary schools that have interests and ideas but nothing has been formally brought forward yet.

Mr. Lowenstein:

I ask the question because the Board of Education, unlike the town, you can bypass the administration and go right to the Board of Finance. The administration might not know what you're planning unless you've told them.

Mr. Scarice: By the administration, do you mean the First Selectwoman?

Mr. Lowenstein: Yes.

Mr. Scarice: No. This went to her. We address everything to her.

Mr. Lowenstein: But she doesn't have to approve it.

Mr. Scarice: Right.

Mr. Lowenstein:

You mentioned community involvement in one of these planned but not yet approved projects. It raises a question with the rope climbing. Would that be made available as part of adult programs as well?

Mr. Scarice:

That is part of the plan. The course itself and the curriculum that goes with it as was described earlier by one of your colleagues is truly a teaching learning experience for kids. It is meant to be taught by a certified teacher and it is meant to address a lot of the concerns that were mentioned before around collaborative skills, leadership skills, certainly trained professionals who know how to handle reluctance, really calculated risk taking. With that in mind, those are also incredible opportunities for community groups to access, as well but not on their own. They would need to have either ours or other trained professionals to facilitate the course. So there will be an opportunity to do that. At the end of the school day, the course is inaccessible. The community would not have access to it unless it was planned.

Mr. Lowenstein: But it could be like the Staples pool, for example.

Mr. Scarice: Absolutely.

Mr. Lowenstein: Not for me necessarily. I'm beyond the point...

Mr. Scarice: We'll get you out there!

Mr. Lowenstein:

Somebody humorously said 'What are they doing? Are they going to train the executioners there?' That was said in jest. Thank you very much. But I think it's important that it be available for a Continuing Ed kind of program for those people who are eligible to do it.

Mr. Scarice: I agree 100 percent.

Lisa Newman, district 8:

Unlike Dick, I don't know my limitations and I can't wait to get up on this rope course. But, that's a different topic altogether. I just have two quick comments. I was in the committee meeting for this and I want to bring up two points that I raised in the committee meeting. I want us to think a little further, beyond COVID, when we are considering the impact on the select group of students who are right now in Staples High School. You have the classes of '25, '26 and '27 who were not only impacted by COVID but also impacted by the Coleytown Middle School shut down. These are kids who socially went through the gamut in middle school and many of you know, my daughter is a class of 2025 freshman. This is a kid who with a group of her friends were evacuated from their school a month into the sixth grade, finished out sixth grade and in seventh grade, this combined middle school which as much as the town did what we could, it was not an ideal learning situation, especially at the middle level and then in

eighth grade, that class was thrown back into their host school half way through the year in a hybrid schedule, separated from their new BMS friends. It's been wild, right? You have three grades that were not only impacted by the pandemic but were impacted a year and a half before that due to the Coleytown situation. So, when we talk about the impact on their social, emotional skills and their team building, somebody mentioned in the committee meeting calling them "soft skills", I agree...

Mr. Scarice: That was me. I call them "human skills".

Ms. Newman:

Wonderful. I call them "critical skills". I have a middle school teaching background. I can tell you what those three grades went through for three years is unlike what I hope any of us can relate to. So, I really want us to consider the impact beyond the pandemic and what this particular group has been through. These kids were already at a social deficit because of what had been going on with their school building. So, I want us to consider that as well or make a respectful plea that we keep that in the back of our minds that this is going to have immediate impact to at least three grade levels who were unduly impacted by all of these outside factors. My second comment is something that I brought up and Mr. Scarice has confirmed. There is a bigger reward from installing something like this. Somebody had brought up the team building field trips that the lower grades attend. Those are usually at Compo Beach. I don't know how much you guys are familiar with those. They're okay. We bring in outside people and have team building activities. I asked the Superintendent, could this be the new site of the team building field trips that we do? In other years, Compo Beach gets rained out and you lose your team building field trip in fifth and sixth grade. I asked about the possibility that we would get more of a reward from this investment and could other grade levels be using this? And he confirmed yes, absolutely. We could be thinking about field trips to Staples High School where other grade levels could utilize this equipment with the right supervision under the program, all of that. For me, that's an extra added benefit that makes this investment seem even smaller monetarily than it was before because we might be saving money if we are able to use it for our middle grades, if our fifth graders, sixth graders, seventh graders, eighth graders can utilize it as well. I was already in support of this for many reasons but that added to my positive feelings about it. That and the fact that I want to get on that course as soon as it's done, I'm voting for it and encourage everyone to do that as well.

Jack Klinge, district 7:

This is a little bit tangential but certainly in the same area as the discussion about the ropes and so forth. Your Long Range Planning Committee met last week and we really talked about long range planning with regard to the ARPA funds. How should they best be utilized moving forward over and beyond what has already been approved by this body? We talked about it for a long time because the list has been published and it's up to date through March. It includes mostly Public Works and town-related infrastructure programs. Now we see programs coming in which involve playgrounds and ropes which are fine. They do certainly meet the ARPA guidelines. What our committee thought about which is beyond what is currently on the list is that we wanted to make an official

request. We voted 7-0 in support of this request and it basically says we want the town administration to put aside at least an additional \$500,000 from the remaining allocated ARPA funds to spend on more health, human services, social, humanitarian, and other projects that benefit both seniors and youth and those less privileged in this town. We asked that we have up to six to 12 months to come back with specific ideas to present to the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectperson, and to go through the process as we normally do. We are waiting to hear back on that request. It has been submitted. I hope that we get a green light. We can work with the rest of the RTM, the Committee Chairs and move to create more projects that are more humanitarian, health centered and present them back through the Board of Finance and the RTM for approval. We'll remove other projects from the list when we do this well in advance of the 2026 time constraints.

Harris Falk, district 2:

I have a few questions about how does this fit into a regular class time period but, quite frankly, we hire the best teachers. They know what they're doing. So, while I have questions, I don't have concerns, I'm going to move on from that. It has been mentioned that it will be used not just by kids but by youth and adult groups. It will have to be with trained staff. I was wondering where the trained staff for that will come from. Who will be paying staff that is not school time? Will we be charging a fee? Will Parks and Rec. be involved with this somehow? Also, it's very tall and I'm wondering how some of the stuff gets stored away at night. You mentioned that it will be inaccessible. How will it be inaccessible? How long does it take to put back together if we do take it apart? Also, will this increase our insurance?

Mr. Scarice:

I'm going to try to remember all the questions, Harris. Elio can speak to the insurance part. There are a lot of ways you can do it. This is designed for our curriculum and our program. Let's just be clear. There is an added benefit and certainly something that can be gained from a community perspective that once we roll this out and once we're comfortable and we're up and running that we would be happy to work with community groups. How I've seen it done and I think Parks and Rec. is an interesting option, it would be outside the school day. There would be trained folks. It could be weekends or possibly late afternoons or evenings. Our staff are trained but there are other folks who are trained on high ropes courses as well. You have to secure them and compensate them for their time to be supervising that. That's probably the simplest way that we would do that. As far as at the end of the day, there are mechanisms in place to either remove elements that preclude individuals from climbing up to the flying squirrel ropes apparatus and so forth. Some of the lower level ladders are pulled away so you can't climb up there. You can see it on Weston's campus. They have the course on their campus and you can see what it looks like, as well. If you want to see something local, that's been there for the better part of 10 or 15 years as well. As far as insurance, Elio spoke to our provider and I believe, Elio, you had already cleared all of this with our insurance consultant?

Mr. Longo:

Right. No increase to our insurance premium. It will be co-insured with the town of Westport. We carry not only a general liability policy, we carry a medical policy. And on the Board of Education side, we also purchase on an annual basis, a student accident policy. So, we believe we have adequate coverage. Each policy does come with a deductible is covered through operations but no increase to the insurance premium.

Mr. Falk:

So that is just for using it in the school classroom. Outside groups would be something completely different.

Mr. Longo:

I envision for outside groups, it's either under a Continuing Education program and the Board of Education also operates a building and grounds rental program. Either program would require a waiver of liability assigned to the Board of Education. Not required as part of our staff and student operations but for outside groups we would require a waiver of liability.

Arline Gertzoff, district 3:

It sounds fascinating. I would just wonder if we could have a quick comment about children whose parents, for some reason, opt out. I know it was mentioned about adaptive programs for students with disabilities but what about students who just say no?

Mr. Scarice:

This is all part of the program and all part of the training. Built into the inclusive model, there are roles for kids. I, for one, do not have a concern because of the training that is involved to be very careful in how students make those choices and supporting them in those choices because they are put in roles that are necessary. There are ground-based roles around teamwork that are needed but there is also a low ropes element where you are just a couple of feet off the ground. It's still the same cognitive challenge and team work challenge to kind of work through. How do you problem solve? Some of the more engaging activities involve getting your team from one side to the other but putting some constraints. You can't talk to each other. How are you going to do this? They have to figure out on their own. It's play based. It's a playful environment. I really believe that every kid, from an inclusive sense, is going to feel very much at home even though they won't be climbing because I won't be climbing high ropes, by the way, but I can see some of the kids playing very critical roles even if they are not on the high ropes.

Ms. Schneeman:

First of all, I just wanted to comment that the RTM can always be counted on to spend the longest time debating the lowest cost item on the agenda. So, we're honoring that tradition this evening. I did want to briefly explain my no vote at the Education Committee. First of all, I very much appreciate the social and emotional needs of all the kids in the district, especially over the last couple of years and all the schools along with all of us play and important role helping to address those. I didn't mean to suggest when

I made the comment about the field trips that we used to do that it was a substitute for this type of having a permanent fixture like this that would allow us to have team building activities. I think I was trying to make a broader point that the needs are vast and deep and there are a lot of things that we can do to address the social and emotional needs of our kids because of COVID or otherwise. It happens every day in the classroom; it happens every day in other parts of the school; it happens in gym class inside the building and outside the building. I think there are probably other team building activities that we could be doing that don't involve the high end equipment. So, am I violently opposed to this project in any way? I'm sure it's going to be really cool. I really appreciated hearing Jaime's perspective as somebody who's actually been a customer and a user of the equipment in the program. It just felt like a nice to have and not something that was going to have such a broad and deep impact on the social and emotional health of the kids across the district that it was a big priority expenditure. I just wanted to explain my perspective there. If I was the only one who was going to vote no, I might vote yes just so we didn't have to go through a roll call vote but there might be a few others who share that opinion.

Peter Gold, district 5:

A couple of quick questions and then some comments: Mr. Scarice, you are going to charge community groups to use this outside of school hours?

Mr. Scarice:

We have absolutely zero plans. This is truly a curriculum based program. But it is a great opportunity to partner when we are up and running and have community groups participate. There would be some cost associated with it, yes.

Mr. Gold:

You would expect the community groups to cover those costs?

Mr. Scarice:

As I said, that is a second level of benefit that we think is a great opportunity for community groups for team building but the plan is to truly support our students at the high school level in the social and emotional collaborative skill area.

Mr. Gold:

I share Harris' concern about securing it. Kids are endlessly creative in climbing things. Even if you put a high fence around it, somebody is going to climb the fence. I'm concerned about that.

Mr. Scarice:

These are courses that are literally all over the country. We have one right north in Weston and it's been there for 15 years. I would never say that something would never happen but this is not something that is standard across schools that have these courses.

Mr. Gold:

You said there are high ropes courses and low ropes courses and the low ropes courses provide challenges similar to the high ropes courses?

Mr. Scarice:

Yes. There are all different activities. They provide problem solving challenges.

Mr. Gold:

The question is can you do without the high ropes and just do the low ropes?

Mr. Scarice: Of course.

Mr. Gold: And you'd still get the social and emotional benefits?

Mr. Scarice:

There are benefits to all the activities. I think that anything that we do that leans into that need that we have for our kids is a benefit. You can do Project Adventure and these types of activities with zero ropes. There are all kinds of activities. I've seen the most talented PE teachers do problem solving without it. This is just something that truly makes it a state of the art type program.

Mr. Gold:

Since we do have talented teachers, we could do without this and get the same social and emotional learning benefits?

Mr. Scarice:

I agree with the first part. I think there is a value added so by definition it would not be the same but there are definitely powerful programs that focus on social and emotional development in a PE setting. I'd be disingenuous if I didn't say that but I believe the value added piece is the difference.

Mr. Gold:

There's no way to quantify the value added piece? [No.]

Lee Goldstein, Chair, Board of Education: Can I interject the Board's view here?

Mr. Gold:

No. It's still my time. I understand that a site has not been located yet for the course?

Mr. Scarice:

We have areas on the campus. We know where we're cleared to put them. But we haven't chosen definitively the site.

Mr. Longo:

I think it is through our facilities department. It is my understanding it will not require any P&Z or ZBA approvals.

Mr. Gold:

I basically agree with a lot of what Wendy Batteau and Kristin Schneeman said. The school has already gotten a lot of ESRA money. We just gave \$105,000. There a lot of groups in town we haven't given any money who deal with the social and emotional needs of kids, Towns Farm, Police Athletic League, to name two. Toquet Hall is another one. While this is a nice to have, I'm not sure it's a necessary to have. I'd rather see some of the other groups who need money get money before we give more to the schools. I also agree with Jack's suggestion that we put aside half million dollars to see what comes down the pike. You'll be coming back to us for the other schools as well. That's a huge chunk of the remaining COVID funds. My kids did Nature's Classroom. Do they still do Nature's Classroom?

Mr. Scarice:

We don't. My daughter did Nature's Classroom. That's a great experience.

Mr. Gold:

That's another team building, emotional and social whatever without the \$63,000 and maintenance and training and whatever. My understanding is that you put this up for ARPA funding because the Board of Finance said 'Schools come up with something.' If they had not done that, you probably would not have come up with this request for funding at this time. It has been on your capital forecast for years. My guess is that I will probably vote no on this. If you really need it that much sooner, I'm sure that we can find some public private donations to fund it. It's not all that expensive. So, given the fact that there are other groups that need the money and it's not an immediate need and you have the talented gym instructors who can meet the social and emotional needs at least to a large extent anyway, I think I'm going to probably vote no on this.

Mr. Scarice:

I respect your opinion. I appreciate that. I just want to point out that you are absolutely correct that we were approached in the fall. This was not something that the Board of Education or myself or the administrators had initiated. We were approached and we welcomed that. Just to be clear, you pointed to the money that we've spent through previous Coronavirus Relief Funds, a lot of that was on PPE, a lot of that was on the responsiveness, technology, so that we can deliver for as long as we did, a hybrid or remote learning. Again, I respect where you're coming from but where we saw the big yes, there is an opportunity to lean into again some great opportunities for our kids for social and emotional development. But I respect where you're coming from.

Mr. Gold:

I understand that. But there are other groups in town who did not get the ESSR funds for their needs during COVID who also spent money who might like to get reimbursed for some of that.

Mr. Scarice: Certainly. That's why we have an RTM to decide that.

Mr. Gold:

I think it does serve a purpose but the purpose could probably wait until we see what other needs there are. Lee, did you have something you wanted to add? [No. It was a question that passed.]

Karen Kramer, district 5:

I've been listening to what everybody said and I agree with everybody, the for's and the cons. I think we definitely need something. I don't know why we don't have something like Nature's Classroom. When I grew up we had something like that where we all went away for a week together. We do need that. I think, Tom, that this is an excellent idea. I really do. It sounds like a lot of fun, good for the kids. The kids have been impacted greatly. Whether these funds should come from that, I think I have to keep listening because I keep flopping back and forth. Can we bring back Nature's Classroom or something like that?

Mr. Scarice: I would be happy to talk about that another night. Yes.

Ms. Kramer: Alright. I'm flopping back and forth.

Ms. Batteau: I think Lori Church hasn't spoken yet.

Lori Church, district 9:

I keep putting my hand up and down because I don't want to take any more time. Then I hear somebody's comments and I react to it. I'll keep it brief. My kids will not benefit from this. They will be graduated. I cannot encourage people more to please vote yes for this. It is directly addressing the ARPA funds definition. It affected our kids so much. It is a relatively small amount and I believe it will really, really help the social and emotional needs of our students who have suffered a lot. This does not mean that the younger kids did not suffer but I have two high schoolers and, trust me, they suffered a lot. At least, this will help the high schoolers and possibly others who might come.

Louis Mall, district 2:

I was very pleased to hear Jaime B. confirm the value of this type of exercise and the meaningful impact it had on his life and other people's lives who have gone through this program. For \$63,200, if it changes the life of one kid who has had to adjust because of COVID and is lacking the confidence or emotional maturity or whatever. The \$63,200, when you compare that to \$1.3 million for half a groin at Burying Hill Beach, let's get real here. I fully support this and I think it is a value added to kids who paid a price during COVID19. Like it was said, we will argue over \$63,000 for the entire night and then we will pass sewer appropriations of \$3 million and groins for \$1.3 million and throw in another \$100,000 for tree pruning...

Mr. Wieser: We get it. Thank you.

Ms. Karpf:

I just wanted to raise one point. The committee report echoed what I felt because I was part of that majority. A quick aside, I took a group of girls to a ropes course type event

two weeks ago. It was incredibly high, higher than this ropes course would be. There were girls scared, petrified. The crowd was egging them on. It was empathy at its finest. None of that could have been taught in the classroom. They were working together. They were coming up with other ways for this girl to get to the top. They were cheering for her. They were hugging at the end. The mom came up to me at the end and said 'This is what she needed.' Because of that, I think that this is one of the votes that I am the most proud to raise my hand for. I think that this is exactly what we, as an RTM, have been asking for the ARPA money to be spent for. This is COVID relief and bounce back from the pandemic at its finest. I think that this is an important vote in practicing what we preach. We've been saying this for months. This is really what we need. I want to thank Tom, Elio. This is the type of thing we need in our schools. I'm really excited to vote for this tonight.

Ms. Batteau:

I want to be clear. I am not opposed to the ropes course and the adventure course. If this were part of the budget for the Board of Education, I would vote for it. I don't have a problem with that. The conversations that we have been having remind me of the old joke about the boy who says 'It's so great. We play softball. Everybody gets a chance. You don't get struck out. You just stand there and when you get a hit you go to base.' And the girl says 'It was torture. They made me stand there and stand there and stand there until I got a hit. I was so humiliated.' It's all in the eye of the person who is doing it. Be that as it may, it's not that I have a problem with this. I sort of think of it in the same way that Kristin Schneeman does. It's really its application with respect to the ARPA funds. What I'd like to ask is is the Board of Education or the Superintendent going to bring forward any programs that are meant specifically to help the children who missed their first three years of school with the kind of socialization that they would have had in the first three years of school or for the kids who are shy in the first place in later grades and have trouble relating to the other kids who they haven't seen in two years. Are there any programs that ARPA money is going to be appropriated for to help those kids out to actually deal with the concrete ravages (or semi-concrete ravages) of COVID isolation?

Mr. Scarice:

This program is actually part of that. It's also part of the work that we do every single day. We've been wide open for a year now. A great deal of focus in our day to day work in our schools has been social and emotional wellness of our kids. It's actually one of the pillars of our upcoming strategic plan, as well. This is not just one strategy to meet the needs of those kids. This is a program as I see it that is cost effective in the scheme of a larger budget that 1,700 kids will go through every year multiple times and have opportunities to participate in that as opposed to a one-time field trip or experience. Across the system, this is a much larger discussion than whether or not the high ropes course is appropriate. That work is talked about at the Board of Education level. I'd be happy to talk further off-line but that's day to day work that you are referring to.

Ms. Batteau:

I was specifically asking if you would be asking for ARPA funds for that kind of work.

Mr. Scarice:

Any future ARPA requests are really targeted to the social and emotional wellness at the middle level. The elementary schools have been discussing some opportunities, a lot around outdoor learning opportunities which is in spirit with the COVID criteria. The focus would be around social and emotional wellness for any other requests we might make.

Ms. Batteau:

Thank you. I just have one comment to Karen. I bet you went to McDowell at Peterborough. That's where I went and we grew up in the same community as opposed to Nature's Classroom.

Mr. Falk:

This project I like because it's actually what ARPA was for. The groin, not at all, even the phones we just approved, I question that because a lot of it just seems to be filling up some budget holes. If it had come through the regular budget we probably would have questioned whether we really needed it. This is fantastic for ARPA. It is going to be helping the kids. It's something that we wouldn't have done. We would have loved to but it wouldn't have happened. Lee, do you have something to say?

Ms. Goldstein:

Thank you Harris. I strongly support this project. To the question of whether you can do the same thing on the high ropes as the low ropes, as Tom said, our teachers are trained to work on the social and emotional part of learning. It's not separate. We are not bifurcated into intellect and emotion so it's all combined. But the high part of the course is so fun. It's so exciting. It's what teenagers love to do and as we've explained, for kids who don't want to do it, there are other things for them to do and no one is going to be forced into it. But I think to not recognize the pure fun aspect of how this feels for kids is missing a really important connection.

Mr. Lowenstein: For the Board of Education, what is your total budget?

Mr. Wieser: We'll be covering those sorts of issues next month.

Mr. Lowenstein: What is your proposed budget?

Mr. Longo: The budget is in the ballpark of \$129 million.

Mr. Lowenstein:

You said \$129 million and we're talking about \$63,000. I can't believe that you couldn't have put that in your budget as has been suggested by several of the RTM members. It's not a question of whether this should be done but how it gets funded. A mistake has been made in raising this thing to a public awareness so it has to be focused on. It's a nothing expense on your budget and I'm surprised you didn't put it in your budget and just have it done. As far as this money, can't the PTA get this money? This PTA has

been very generous. This is something they would have funded, if asked. A no vote would not be because of the project. A no vote would be because of the funding source.

Mr. Longo:

I can't comment on the PTA; however, I can comment on our proposed budget. Along the way, we reduced our proposed budget by \$2.5 million through a lot of \$63,000 projects. So, this is not a matter of adding just one \$63,000 project. We reduced our budget by \$2.5 million from our initial start.

Mr. Lowenstein:

It's been a very enlightening discussion. I'm in district 5 which means I'm halfway through the vote and I'll make my mind up before the vote is called.

By roll call vote, the motion passes 28-3-1. (Absent: Milwe, Meiers Schatz, Briggs, Liccione.) Opposed: Gold, Lowenstein, Schneeman; Abstaining: Hammond.

The secretary read item #3 of the call – To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$1,431,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for construction to extend the Sanitary Sewer System to Whitney Street, Roseville Road, Fernwood Road, Plumtree Lane, Pamela Place and Ledgemoor Lane.

Presentation

Pete Ratkiewicz, Director of Public Works:

That's going to be a tough act to follow. I'm only asking for \$1.4 million for a sanitary sewer extension. This petition is from 37 properties in the area of Whitney Street, Roseville Road, Fernwood Road, Plumtree Lane, Pamela Place and Ledgemoor Lane. I'll take the opportunity to share my screen and show you where that occurs. Part of the issue here is you have two of the worst septic system rehab conditions that you could possibly have. Over on the south side of Whitney Street, you go over a steep hill that is consistent ledge. It's very difficult to put a septic system in because there is not a lot of soil. On the other side of Whitney Street, you go downhill to what is really a lowland and has very wet soil conditions that are also very difficult to reinstall or repair a septic system. Similar conditions are at the intersection of Whitney Street and Roseville Road. We have 37 properties that petitioned. About 80 percent of them were in favor of a sanitary sewer. We accepted the petition and, as you may recall, back in 2021, funds were appropriated for the engineering design of this sewer extension. The project has been reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and has received a positive 8-24 determination in 2020. The design engineer confirmed our thoughts that a combination gravity sewer and low pressure sewer would suffice to provide sewer to the 37 properties. The cost of the project, as estimated by our engineer is \$1,431,000. When all is said and done on this project, number 73, the estimated cost that will be benefit assessed for each property to pay for this, which will be a reimbursement to the town, would be about \$39,600 per property. That's a pretty high assessment but in this area the septic system failure rate is such that it would probably cost the same amount

to replace the septic system. The administration is requesting \$1,431,000 to construct a sewer system and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Committees report

Finance and Public Works Committee, Mr. Keenan:

This is sanitary sewers contract #73. Pete explained most of it. It is \$1.431 million for 37 properties. I don't know if Pete explained this but, for anybody new, the sewer projects are benefit assessed. It is not paid for out of our tax dollars. It is being paid for over 19 years by the property owners that benefit from the installation of the sewers. As Pete also explained, it is \$39,000 and change per property over 19 years. The project has been approved by 8-24 by the Planning and Zoning Commission. All those present in both committees voted unanimous to recommend approval to the full RTM.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum in the amount of \$1,431,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for construction to extend the Sanitary Sewer System to Whitney Street, Roseville Road, Fernwood Road, Plumtree Lane, Pamela Place and Ledgemoor Lane, is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

Ms. Bram:

This is my neighborhood. I'm in district 6 off of Whitney Street. We have a lot of flooding in that area so I am firmly in favor of extending the sewer system. I want to complement the Public Works Department. I think it is going to be great. I enthusiastically support it.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously, 32-0.

The secretary read item #4 of the call – To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$3,100,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for construction to extend the Sanitary Sewer System to Evergreen Avenue, Evergreen Parkway, Tamarac Road, Lone Pine Lane, Gorham Avenue, Compo Road North and Brookside Drive.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This project, very similar to the other, was a petition that we received from the residents of the listed area seeking an extension of the public sanitary sewer to service their neighborhoods. As you may recall, last year, funds were also appropriated for the engineering design of the requested sewer extension. This project has also been reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and has received a positive 8-24 determination in March of 2021. Our initial thoughts here were that the area could be serviced by a combination gravity sewer and low pressure sewer as well. This design

provides service to 124 properties that were part of the petition and, again, 80 percent acceptance of the request. All of these sewer extensions are benefit assessed meaning that those who benefit from the sewer extension pay for the sewer extension. There are three costs to a sewer. Benefit assessment is the first one. Connection to the sewer is the next one and a use charge is the third. Once you are connected, you have to pay a use charge. The individual residents pay for their own connections but the actual cost of constructing the sewer is benefit assessed over 19 years to all those who are served by it whether they connect or not. So, it amounts to, in this case, the benefit assessment is much lower than the previous item because there are so many more units. It comes out to about \$25,000/unit. I'll quickly share my screen to show you the area. You will see Deadman's Brook so this area is in a flood zone. It is very difficult to keep a septic system in good shape especially with the small size of some of these lots. So, there is not a lot of room for the replacement of the septic system. While there is good soil in the area, it is prudent to connect to the septic system because of the lot size. I would be happy to take any questions.

Committees report

Finance and Public Works Committee, Mr. Keenan:

This was the same meeting for sanitary sewer contract #75. It is \$3.1 million serving 124 properties. Pete covered pretty much everything. This was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission with their 8-24. The cost per property is a little over \$25,000 over 19 years. Both committees voted unanimously to recommend to the full RTM.

Members of the Westport Electorate – no comments

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum in the amount of \$3,100,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for construction to extend the Sanitary Sewer System to Evergreen Avenue, Evergreen Parkway, Tamarac Road, Lone Pine Lane, Gorham Avenue, Compo Road North and Brookside Drive, is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

Ms. Church: Pete, what was the vote on this?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

I don't have the exact percentage but I did text Brian Thompson, my Sewer Service System Supervisor before this meeting and he said both petitions tonight were over 80 percent.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously, 33-0.

The secretary read item #5 of the call - To ratify and approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Westport and the Westport Municipal Employee Union Local 1303-387, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.

Presentation

Ralph Chetcuti, Director of Human Resources:

I want to give you a short synopsis of the settlement that we had with the WME Union. This union represents most of our administrative employees, mostly in Town Hall. There really were not very many issues. Like most of our contracts, this is a fairly mature contract so there were no operational needs that needed to be changed. We had to amend the membership clause in the contract a few years back. There was a Supreme Court decision called the Janis Decision which stated that you did not have to pay dues to a union but you still would be represented by that union so we put that into the contract as we are doing with all the other ones. The increases that were negotiated were 2.75 percent for 7/1/21, 2.75 percent for 7/1/22, 2.5 percent for 7/1/23, and 2.5 percent for 7/1/24. Number three is just basically a cleanup of the contract. At one time, we offered two different health plans. We eliminated the PPO which is no longer available so we took that out of the contract. That saved us at least two pages. Number 4 is the contributions to the health insurance. Currently, all the unions are at 14 percent. We negotiated 15 percent retroactively to July 2021, 15.5 percent effective July 1, 2022, 16 percent effective July 1, 2023 and 16.5 percent effective July 1, 2024. Number five. A couple of years back, we switched to a debit card for those employees who were entitled to clothing allowances. It was easier than processing all kinds of purchasing orders. This has worked out very well so we put that into the contract. We also had to reinstate one of the positions that does get this stipend and for some reason it got dropped out of the contract, way back. The only other thing is as was said before, the contract is from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. All of the other items in the collective bargaining agreement remain the same.

Committees report

Employee Compensation and Finance Committees, Mr. Mall:

This is a joint meeting of the Employee Compensation and Finance Committees held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 23, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to recommend to the RTM to take such action as the meeting may determine, to ratify and approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Westport and the Westport Municipal Employee Union. Those who attended were listed on the schedule that was provided to you. Personnel Director/ Human Resources Director Ralph Chetcuti presented. Mr. Chetcuti negotiated the contract directly with the WMEU without outside counsel. There were minor housekeeping items that were addressed, with the major issue being the wage package and employee contributions to the healthcare plan. This is a four-year agreement covering 56 employees of the Town.

	Wages	EE Contributions to Medical Plan
7/1/21	2.75%	15.0%
7/1/22	2.75%	15.5%

7/1/23	2.50%	16.0%
7/1/24	2.50%	16.5%

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the RTM to take such action as the meeting may determine, to ratify and approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Westport and the Westport Municipal Employee Union Local 1303-387, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. Employee Compensation Committee voted 8-0-0 in favor; Finance voted 5-0-0 to recommend to the RTM to approve. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM. I would like to thank Ralph Chetcuti and the WMEU for bargaining in good faith and coming to an agreement.

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Westport and the Westport Municipal Employee Union Local 1303-387, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025 is hereby ratified and the sum of \$101,023.43 for the 2021 -2022 fiscal year and the sum of \$204,825.00 for the 2022 -2023 fiscal year is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Gold:

Jeff, is this one of those things where we vote not to reject as opposed to ratify?

Mr. Wieser: I think this is to vote to ratify.

Mr. Gold:

That's what the resolution says but I thought we could only vote not to reject on bargaining contracts.

Mr. Chetcuti:

Peter, I think that was not to reject an arbitration award. You have to ratify the contract.

Mr. Mall:

I also believe it is with the Board of Education that we vote not to reject. I think in this case it's a vote to ratify.

Mr. Gold: I just wanted to make sure we were doing it right.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Bairaktaris: What employees does this cover? Can you give examples?

Mr. Chetcuti:

P&Z, Conservation Department, the Administrative Assistants in all of the departments, the Tax Collector, the Town Clerk's office and the administrative people in Parks and Rec.

Claudia Shaum, district 5:

This is something of curiosity because clothing allowance means something different to me, who gets a clothing allowance?

Mr. Chetcuti:

It's primarily the people whose job requires them to go to building sites and work sites and potentially muddy situations so we give them clothing allowances. It's not a large group of people. The people who work in the office do not get clothing allowance.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously 33-0.

Mr. Wieser: We will now move on to item #8.

The secretary read item #8 of the call - To re-appoint Peter Gold to serve as Director to the Westport Transit District with a term beginning May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2026.

Committee report

Transit Committee, Nancy Kail, district 9:

Westport RTM Transit Committee met on March 15, 2022. There were two agenda items: to have a Westport Transit District Overview and to vote on the decision to reappoint Peter Gold as Westport Transit District Director. Seven committee members were present. They are listed in the report. The first item, the Westport Transit District overview discussion was focused on Wheels2U. It took the bulk of the meeting. This was because it was rightly feared that the Board of Finance would cut Wheels2U funds from the FY23 Town Budget. They actually did do this at their March 29 meeting. They cut half the request, from \$266,000 in requested funds. Wheels2U funding is a matter for the next RTM meeting so we'll be back to you soon on that count. If you want more information on that, there is information in the Transit Committee report that we filed and also the other attachments. The second item, voting to reappoint Peter Gold to a four year term as Westport Transit District Director, by the time we got to this, it was a very quick no-brainer discussion and vote. Peter Gold took on a tough, thankless volunteer job pre-COVID and he stuck with it through COVID and attempts to eliminate Wheels2U funding. He made some real improvements to the three Westport Transit District services, Wheels2U and the two services for seniors and disabled folks. Some of those improvements included services expansion and extensions, maintaining good relations with our partner at the Norwalk Transit District. He worked with several town groups, PTA Council, neighborhood associations, seniors and he secured State funding and grants. Improvements included better marketing and communications, Wheels2U flexibility and reduced costs with new on demand service via an app. This is a volunteer position and, although there should be two Transit Directors, no one has stepped up. It is no wonder then that we voted 6-0 to reappoint Peter for the four year term and Peter, of course, recused himself from this vote.

Members of the Westport electorate

Jennifer Johnson, 28 Tamarac Road:

I'm going to share a few thoughts. First, I want to thank everyone for reading the letter I sent out today. Second, I want to make it very clear that I'm a huge supporter of public transit. As some of you might know, I met my husband on a bus and I've had multiple appointments to various regional and town-related transportation commissions over the last 10 years. I believe transportation is a fundamental issue impacting our town and region. I've gotten great responses to the email that I sent so thank you to those who did respond. In one of those comments, someone said I was brave which I thought was kind of funny. I am determined to help elevate everyone's understanding of a very, very complex issue, keeping the issue focused on the bigger solutions that help us all. As it relates to Peter, I think very highly of Peter. I've worked with Peter over 10 years as it relates to transportation and I've shared every bit of knowledge and solutions with him. On many things, we simply don't agree. The First Selectman would rather the RTM deal with this but, with all due respect, it's crucial that the First Selectman takes the lead in addressing transit and transportation, not the RTM. I've provided everyone with a map. The map is 10 years old but it's still very relevant. People live and work in the region. We don't live in a bubble and I want to thank the Norwalk Transit District but I do believe, given how small the region is that they serve that they can extend fixed route services to our train stations, connect our main to train with fixed predictable service and continue Wheels2U which is what they do in Norwalk. Yes, restore the funding but I do not believe you should continue the appointment of the Westport Transit District and have the RTM responsible for this. It needs to stop.

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the RTM Transit Committee, Peter Gold is hereby re-appointed to serve as Director to the Westport Transit District with a term beginning May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2026.

Members of the RTM

Ms. Schneeman:

I did want to pipe up and say, first of all, thank you to Peter for being willing to continue to serve in this role. I do appreciate some of the points that Jennie has made here and in the email she sent earlier. I know that she is very devoted to trying to find solutions to large scale problems we have in the State of Connecticut and regionally around transit. I just wanted to point out that this is not really the appropriate time and I'm not sure this is the right method to try to address those concerns. First of all, we need a Transit Director. We will have none as of April 30 and we have to get a budget passed. The Transit District is responsible for presenting and getting passed their own budget. As Jennie pointed out, the town does not do that. The First Selectman does not do that. You might agree that it should be a town function but currently it is not. It is really up to Peter and the Transit District Directors to represent our interests. I think we need to have a Westporter in there representing the interests of Westport. After the budget cycle passes, it feels like a good time to have that broader conversation about solutions to the transit challenges that we have in town but getting rid of the Westport Transit District now or not approving Peter's reappointment is not the appropriate first step in my view.

Ms. Kail:

I agree with everything that Kristin said. I do also agree with Jennie though that this should not just be up to the Westport Transit District and Peter. I thank Peter for his ongoing willingness to serve in this role. It is an important role and it's needed but I think there are more players in town that should get involved in solving our transit issues, not just the First Selectman's office but somebody from the Board of Finance, Sustainable Westport, and the RTM and a whole bunch of folks to come together in an integrated effort along with some of the other efforts that are taking place across town like our district-oriented traffic and public safety effort. All of this is related and it's going to take more than just Peter Gold and his heroic efforts at the Westport Transit District. While I disagree with Jennie that we should get rid of the Westport Transit District and leave everything up to the Norwalk Transit District, I agree that this needs a broader, more aligned across town effort with more folks involved.

Mr. Braunstein:

Pretty much everything I wanted to say has been said by both Kristin and Ms. Kail. This is part of a much bigger discussion and without having Peter there to advocate on behalf of the transit interests, then the discussion is one-sided, effectively, and pointless. Denying the role at this critical juncture would be a grievous error on behalf of any interests in perpetuating an approach to public transportation in the future. In addition to saying a very sincere thank you to Peter for serving in this capacity, I would just encourage each of you, even if you have questions about the efficacy of public transit, that it's not an effective debate if there's not someone there to advocate.

Ms. Church:

From my own understanding as a still fairly new member, if we vote no to Peter as the Director, does that just mean that there's nobody?

Mr. Gold:

I can answer that. My term as Transit Director expires on April 30 but it extends until a successor has been nominated and approved. Theoretically, I would continue in that role; however, if this body decides they don't want to vote for me, I'll step down on April 30 and there will be nobody.

Stephen Shackelford, district 8:

That was my question. I think the only thing up right now is whether or not to approve Peter for another term. So, that answered my question but Peter I also wanted to add my voice to the thanks for all the service you continue to put into this and thank you for being willing to continue to do it.

Mr. Mandell:

Clearly, the topic tonight is whether or not we are going to elect Peter. Jen has brought up a topic for discussion, not actually to get rid of Peter. I think she wanted to have the conversation. I think if we are going to have that conversation, we also have to talk about what would we be doing and our job is to do what is best for Westport. Is regionalization best for Westport or is staying with our own program better for us? The idea that we should give the money directly to Norwalk, we already give the money to

Norwalk so there is no change. The question is should we be have someone from Norwalk telling Westport how we should be dealing with our transit? Or would it be better to have someone from Westport deciding how we deal with our transit? In terms of regionalization and the idea that many people work here, we have a huge number of people who come to Westport each day to work. The question is does Coastal Link serve them? Does the train serve them properly and then we move them via our buses to their work properly or not? My doctor actually lives in New York City. He comes up on the train every day, he gets on the bus and he takes it to his location. Clearly, that works for that particular individual. How many people are not being served that want to come to Westport? That needs to be put on the table before we come to this idea that we should lop off the head of the chicken and have the chicken running around without a head because that's what's being proposed here. So, I'm all in favor of Peter being reinstated. He's doing a phenomenal job. He's coming up with innovative ideas for the transit system in Westport. By the way, we're going to be talking about it again next month because the Board of Finance has cut the funding again for the Transit District and we're going to be looking at a restore again. So, it's the same conversation we've had all along. What is going to happen with our transit? Each time I've voted to bring it back because I believe having some form of transit is good. How much transit is good? I'm not really sure. I think that's the bigger question. Tonight the question is do we want Peter to continue to work as the head of the Transit District? The answer empirically is yes.

Mr. Wieser:

I appreciate those comments Mr. Mandell. I do encourage everyone. That is our issue tonight not the issue of what the Transit District will look like. We are voting on reappointing Peter Gold tonight. We will no doubt have a much broader conversation in a month. Try to limit your conversation tonight as to whether or not Peter will be reappointed.

Ms. Kramer:

I think we should definitely reelect Peter. If he is willing to put up with us and do all he does for us, I think we are darned lucky to have him. After that, he can help us to look for someone else which I think he'd love to do. He's gracious enough to do it and he's doing a heck of a good job. So, tonight I'm going to vote to keep Peter there and looking to him to see if we can find some other ways in the future.

Mr. Falk:

Yes we need to keep Peter for all the reasons everyone has said. It would be absolutely great and we should probably have towns get together and have their own board. Our first responders now have a dispatch that is together. Our health districts are now together. We can do this with the buses but as an RTM, we cannot. So, until the Select people get altogether, this is what we need. We need to make sure that we can take care of our own buses, our own transportation.

Ross Burkhardt, district 3:

I'd just like to say that I understand that Peter has definitely put in a lot of work developing what he thinks is an appropriate system to serve the people in the town. I feel we need to find somebody for that position that's got a much bigger vision for what transit should be. I've been serving on the committee that has been working on bus shelter locations along the Coastal Link service. I don't know why the district was not really looking at trying to get those shelters put up a long time ago. Also, the Wheels2U service only provides service from homes to the rail station. There are plenty of people who come in on the Coastal Link where the service needs to be coordinated, providing services to people using that service to get to town for crucial jobs that they've got in town. I've got a lot of respect for Peter, don't know him real well but I really feel that the concept of transit that he envisions for the town is really not appropriate for the future.

Ms. Batteau:

First of all, thank you to Peter who I think has done a terrific job. Every year, the Board of Finance cuts money out of the Transit District budget and every year we put it back. Every year, we say we are going to look at it from a different perspective. Peter has done that and has come up with some really terrific ideas. I do think that Jennie Johnson has raised some good points and I particularly like Nancy Kail's idea of having meetings subsequent to this one with people from different areas like we are doing with the traffic study meetings that the First Selectwoman is doing having people with an environmental perspective as well as a financial perspective and so on and find out what some other options would be. But, in the meantime, if Peter will do it, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Mr. Mall:

I'm going to come at this from a little different angle than most people have. First of all, I always thought that this was a temporary solution putting Peter in this position. Now, it's becoming permanent. What I have a problem with is, as Director of the Transit District, being a member of the RTM Transit Committee and that member of the RTM Transit Committee being a member of the RTM. What we get when we get these cuts is the Director of Transit who is on the Transit Committee lobbying the rest of the RTM for funding or restoration of funding even though he is recusing himself from the individual vote, there is a tremendous amount of pressure and lobbying and arm twisting and I find that not quite appropriate. The other thing that I had a serious problem is during the vote for bus shelters using ARPA funds was that the Director of the Transit District wouldn't support bus shelters for essential workers who were sitting or standing in the elements waiting for a transit bus. I don't know how I'm going to vote. District 2 comes early so I will vote early (and often.)

Mr. Lowenstein:

I am a member of the Transit Committee and a former Chair of the Committee as well. There was a lot of talk tonight about the future. We're not talking about the future right now. We're talking about today and tomorrow. We need a Transit Director. Peter has taken the job for the last two years and done an excellent job of it. As I said in the Board of Finance meeting when they cut the budget that the whole question of what should be done in the future requires leadership. The RTM is not in the role of leadership in that

respect nor is the Board of Finance. I threw the ball right back to the Executive Branch of government which is where all this has come from.

Mr. Gold:

I just want to first of all thank everybody for the nice things you've said and address some of the points that were raised. In point of fact, I met with Jen Tooker last Friday to talk about ways to revamp the system. I suggested to Jen exactly what Nancy Kail has suggested, to have a larger group of people try to look into the problem and try and come up different ways that may better serve the town's needs if there are such different ways. I don't know if there are or not. It's worth looking into. I have also been talking to the Norwalk Transit District over the last several months about possibly regionalizing it. So, these things are ongoing. You may not see them but they are ongoing. As far as meetings the Coastal Link from a Westport point of view, happy to do it if you give me the money to run it and if Norwalk has the buses. Part of the problem is there is a shortage of buses. There is a shortage of drivers. During the middle of the day, buses that Norwalk has available are dedicated to para-transit services and are not available to the people around town at this point in time. It would require new buses and drivers but it is something that obviously merits looking into if we could figure out a way to do it. I would encourage people who have suggestions of things that could be done to let me know. As for bus shelters, yes, I voted against bus shelters because I think there's a better technological solution. There will be very few bus shelters. They cover a smaller part of the Post Road. All the buses have apps where you can track them in real time so instead of walking out to a shelter, you could walk out to the Post Road. I think that's a better technological solution but that's just my opinion. The town wanted bus shelters. They voted for bus shelters. As for lobbying, I certainly can lobby in my role as a private citizen and as Director of the Transit District even though I am on the RTM just as Liz Milwe and Cathy Talmadge can talk about Wakeman Town Farm or Matt Mandell talks about Earthplace. Again, if you have questions about this or anything else about transit, give me a call. I'll be happy to talk to you at great length about any or all of these issues. Thank you.

By roll call vote, the motion passes 28-2-2. Opposed: Burkhardt, Mall; Abstaining: Izzo, Liccione; Recused: Gold.

Mr. Wieser:

Congratulations Mr. Gold. Thank you for your service. With that, we can adjourn the meeting. We will see you at 7 o'clock on Monday, May 2 in the auditorium providing all stays the same. Good luck with all your meetings this week on the budget. We will see you soon and talk to you sooner.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey M. Dunkerton
Town Clerk

Jacquelyn Fuchs

by Jacquelyn Fuchs

ATTENDANCE: April 5, 2022

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Matthew Mandell	X			
	Liz Milwe		X		
	Kristin M. Purcell	X			
	Chris Tait	X			
2	Harris Falk	X			
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Louis M. Mall	X			
	Christine Meiers Schatz		X	X	
3	Ross Burkhardt	X			
	Arline Gertzoff	X			Arr. 8 p.m.
	Jimmy Izzo	X			
	Don O'Day	X			
4	James Bairaktaris	X			
	Andrew J. Colabella	X			
	Noah Hammond	X			Arr. 8:15 p.m.
	Jeff Wieser	X			
5	Peter Gold	X			
	Karen Kramer	X			
	Richard Lowenstein	X			
	Claudia Shaum	X			
6	Candace Banks	X			
	Jessica Bram	X			
	Seth Braunstein	X			
	Cathy Talmadge	X			
7	Brandi Briggs		X	X	
	Lauren Karpf	X			
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Ellen Lautenberg	X			
8	Wendy Batteau	X			
	Rachel Cohn	X			
	Lisa Newman	X			Arr. 8 p.m.
	Stephen Shackelford	X			
9	Lori Church	X			
	Nancy Kail	X			
	Sal Liccione	X			
	Kristin Schneeman	X			
Total		33	3		

Roll Call Vote #2

DIST.	NAME	Absent	In Favor	Opposed	Abstain
1	Matthew Mandell		X		
	Liz Milwe	X			
	Kristin M. Purcell		X		
	Chris Tait		X		
2	Harris Falk		X		
	Jay Keenan		X		
	Louis M. Mall		X		
	Christine Meiers Schatz	X			
3	Ross Burkhardt		X		
	Arline Gertzoff		X		
	Jimmy Izzo		X		
	Don O'Day		X		
4	James Bairaktaris		X		
	Andrew J. Colabella		X		
	Noah Hammond				X
	Jeff Wieser		X		
5	Peter Gold			X	
	Karen Kramer		X		
	Richard Lowenstein			X	
	Claudia Shaum		X		
6	Candace Banks		X		
	Jessica Bram		X		
	Seth Braunstein		X		
	Cathy Talmadge		X		
7	Brandi Briggs	X			
	Lauren Karpf		X		
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Ellen Lautenberg		X		
8	Wendy Batteau		X		
	Rachel Cohn		X		
	Lisa Newman		X		
	Stephen Shackelford		X		
9	Lori Church		X		
	Nancy Kail		X		
	Sal Liccione	X			
	Kristin Schneeman			X	
Total			28	3	1

Roll Call Vote #8

DIST.	NAME	Absent	In Favor	Opposed	Abstain
1	Matthew Mandell		X		
	Liz Milwe	X			
	Kristin M. Purcell		X		
	Chris Tait		X		
2	Harris Falk		X		
	Jay Keenan		X		
	Louis M. Mall			X	
	Christine Meiers Schatz	X			
3	Ross Burkhardt			X	
	Arline Gertzoff		X		
	Jimmy Izzo				X
	Don O'Day		X		
4	James Bairaktaris		X		
	Andrew J. Colabella		X		
	Noah Hammond		X		
	Jeff Wieser		X		
5	Peter Gold				Recused
	Karen Kramer		X		
	Richard Lowenstein		X		
	Claudia Shaum		X		
6	Candace Banks		X		
	Jessica Bram		X		
	Seth Braunstein		X		
	Cathy Talmadge		X		
7	Brandi Briggs	X			
	Lauren Karpf		X		
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Ellen Lautenberg		X		
8	Wendy Batteau		X		
	Rachel Cohn		X		
	Lisa Newman		X		
	Stephen Shackelford		X		
9	Lori Church		X		
	Nancy Kail		X		
	Sal Liccione				X
	Kristin Schneeman		X		
Total			28	2	2