

**RTM Meeting
December 6, 2022**

The call

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to elect a Moderator of the Representative Town Meeting.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to elect a Deputy Moderator of the Representative Town Meeting.
3. 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 for \$216,056.00 from the Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, to enhance social needs of students at all five Elementary Schools.
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 of \$482,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for an Engineer Assessment, Design Consultant, Project and Construction Managers for the feasibility study for the Long Lots Elementary School Project.
5. 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 of \$385,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the replacement of the existing sidewalks leading to Greens Farms School along Morning Side Drive South, Hillandale Road and Center Street. A STEAP Grant was awarded to the Town in the amount of \$250,000.00.
6. 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 of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in the existing network program. This project is for sidewalks leading to Bedford Middle School, Coleytown Middle School, and sections along Riverside Avenue.
7. 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 of \$550,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account for the purchase of a Freightliner 114SD Van-con Jet Truck to be assigned to the Sewage Collection System Division.

The Meeting

Moderator Jeff Wieser:

Good evening. This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order. My name is Jeff Wieser and I am the RTM Moderator. We welcome those who are joining us tonight in the Town Hall auditorium, as well as those watching us streaming live on westportct.gov, and those watching on Optimum Government Access Channel 79 or Frontier Channel 99. On my right is tonight again is the RTM Secretary Jackie Fuchs.

Members of the Westport electorate attending the meeting tonight may comment on any agenda item. Comments will be limited to three minutes. Emails may be sent at any

time to RTMmailinglist@westportct.gov, which goes to all RTM members. These emails will not be read aloud during the meeting.

Tonight's invocation will be delivered by Sue Pfister. Sue will be retiring at the end of this month as Director of Senior Services in the town's Health and Human Services Department after a long, long time with us. Even though we are sorry to see Sue leave, we are happy to have her here tonight. Unlike most invocations, Lauren Karpf will say a few words before the invocation.

Lauren Karpf, district 7:

It is my pleasure tonight to introduce Sue Pfister. As I'm sure you know, Sue is retiring at the end of the month from an esteemed 35 year career with the Department of Human Services and, of course, the longtime Director of the Senior Center. Sue has spent her career with the town of Westport. She was an instrumental part of the construction of the Senior Center as well as its expansion and has developed programs and offerings to make the Senior Center a highlight of our town providing a necessary and valuable resource. Westporters are truly fortunate to have had 35 years with Sue. Thank you for bettering the lives of Westport residents and contributing so much to our town. Jack Klinge has something he would like to say given his extensive working with Sue.

Jack Klinge, district 7:

This is, for me, a kind of bittersweet speech because Sue and I go back over 25 years and here I am tonight kind of saying goodbye to her in a way so thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about Sue. Going back over a number of years, kind of paraphrasing the Grateful Dead, what a long, strange trip it's been. Let's go back 25 or 30 years when the Senior Center is in the YMCA. Then it has to leave. And then we found a home for it at the Greens Farms Elementary School and we were asked to leave there. We talked of the Inn down at Longshore for a summer. That wouldn't work...end up at Staples at the auto shop and that looked like it might be its home for a while until no, that space was needed as well for education. That's when Sue and I began to work together, 2000, to find a location for the Senior Center. We looked at architects. She helped pick out architects, Turner Construction and she was the most valuable member of the design team creating what became a jewel in this town of Westport. It's really the house that Sue built, not just in 2002 but three years ago with an addition. Over those years, I have worked with Sue directly since I am involved with the Friends of the Senior Center. I can tell you that our seniors have no better friend in this town than Sue Pfister. No better advocate, I call her a guardian angel. I watch them day in and day out visit our Center. You'd be amazed how many come to Sue for advice...health advice, family advice, transportation advice, housing advice of all types. She is like the mother hen gathering her flock of seniors. She truly dotes on them and loves them. It's her life's work and she's done it extremely well. It's been a real pleasure to work alongside of her and watch her run what I call a pretty tight ship at the Senior Center. There are things that the Senior Center has done for Sue over the years. We have Sue's Café, where you can eat lunch and we feed 75 people off and on every day. That's in and of itself remarkable. We have amazing services. Every day in the Center you'll see programs spread out around four or five exercise rooms, painting, jewelry,

technology, exercise and it all starts with the head, Sue Pfister. A wonderful lady who, frankly, when she told me about her plans to retire back in October, I wasn't shocked but I said is this going to work alright or not? It will but I can tell you that Westport will be missing a wonderful, wonderful civil servant, the best I've ever seen operate in this town day in and day out running a complex operation. Our seniors are going to miss an incredible support system led by Sue at the Senior Center. For Sue retiring means doing more volunteer work around the area on her own schedule as opposed to a Senior Center schedule. So, she's never going to walk away from her life's mission of working with seniors. In summary, Westport is going to lose something big, our seniors are, and sad to say, so am I. I'm going to lose a wonderful friend. Sue Pfister.

Invocation, Sue Pfister:

I almost need a five minute break from that. Thank you Jack. Thank you for this opportunity. It's funny being up here without a stack of documents and statistics. I don't have to justify anything so I should be calmer but I'm not calm. I'm a little bit more relaxed. Just a little bit about myself.

Back in the mid 80's, my twin brother and I commuted to Sacred Heart University, both as business majors. Less than a year into my college career, I realized the field of business and the priority of measuring success by the bottom line was not for me. At the same time, I was also making frequent visits with my mother to visit my grandmother, Bocci, in a nursing home in upstate Connecticut. I quickly realized that my inner soul connected with older adults, and that I felt very comfortable. Luckily, Sacred Heart University had a well-recognized and accredited Social Work program which I quickly transferred into. Goodbye business. After graduating from Sacred Heart, I went to Fordham University where I obtained my master's degree in gerontology. Although my first job was working at Friendly's in Darien underage I might add and I was almost fired because my cones were always too heavy, my one and only "real" job has been with the Town of Westport's Department of Human Services. As Jack referenced, throughout my career, the Senior Center has moved five times and I think we paid Purcell's moving bills for many years. We moved from the Bedford Room in the old downtown YMCA to Longshore in the summers where I would literally look up at the raccoons in the ceiling, to shared space with the Art Center in what is now the Green Farms Elementary School, to Gloria across from the swimming pool at Staples High School. We had a little space there when the elementary school was reclaimed, and finally, moved to our beautiful, permanent home at 21 Imperial Avenue. Over my tenure, I've had an opportunity to observe Westport in action – from the numerous meetings I've attended to seek approvals or funding, to the many wonderful civic organizations like the Friends of the WCSA, which Jack is clearly in charge of, Rotaries, Y's Men & Women, Women's Club, United Way back in the day, and the numerous interfaith organizations, just to mention a few. In my experience, the town's administration and community-at-large, have always had seniors' best interests, front and center, something that I have not witnessed in any other community throughout my career. This town recognizes the valuable asset and resource seniors are to the community. Through creative and generous programs like the Town's tax relief and deferral programs, many seniors can maintain a more comfortable lifestyle and more importantly, are able to age in place, in their homes. Your support of programs like

these over the years has probably had more impact than you realize, and I thank you for that. I truly appreciate the support the Center for Senior Activities has received throughout my career. The Center could not have been as successful as it has been without the continued financial support and, most importantly, the recognition of the professional staff it takes to operate to the standards Westport expects and deserves. I cannot tell you how comforting it was to know that if I explained the need for my request, I always had your support and almost 100 percent of your votes. You were always engaged and asked thought-provoking questions. This is not to mention all of the support I received over the years from the various boards, commissions and numerous volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to you call.

Over the years, I cannot begin to tell you how many times I've heard: "You have the patience of a saint." Or, "How do you do it?" Or, "I could never!" Well, I look at each day as a gift, and at each participant as a hero. I've learned so much from so many participants over the years that I should write a book. Words of wisdom, words of hope, words of experience, words of suggestions, words of support, and many words of what ifs. I always knew life was precious, but the recent pandemic and the many losses I have witnessed over the years, have really helped me to realize that none of us are guaranteed a tomorrow. My dream is that one day, the people of earth will all learn how to get along unconditionally, and without any discrimination.

I'd like to leave you with two quotes – one from my softball days many years ago and one as I reflect on my journey in life: The first: "It doesn't take talent to hustle." The second: "The best part of life is when your family becomes your friends, and your friends become family." A sincere thank you for giving me the opportunity to enjoy, love, and experience such a remarkable and rewarding career. Please come to my open house at the WCSA on Wednesday, December 28th from 1:30 – 4:30. I hope that each and every one of you will come to we can share a few more moments together and reminisce.

And now may I lead you in the pledge of allegiance...

Ms. Pfister:

I'm very proud of myself. I read this at home and I didn't make it through so I packed a hanky and I didn't need it. So, I did it! I can leave now, right

Mr. Wieser:

You can. You lucky lady. Thank you Sue and you are among the first who did not have to be prompted to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. Impressive.

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the September meeting are available. November 1 and October 11 meeting will be available soon. Please let us know if there are corrections in those or the September minutes. If you later find any corrections, please inform Jackie Fuchs, Jeff Dunkerton, or me.

Announcements:

Congratulations to our December Birthday celebrants Mr. Braunstein, Harris Falk, and Liz Milwe. Also, Happy Birthday to Cathy Talmadge who is not with us tonight, but is in our thoughts regularly. As we learned this past week, Cathy is battling a serious illness. We are all pulling for her and wish her the very best. I am pretty certain and I am hopeful that she is watching these proceedings and in expectation that she is, Just to make sure she feels the love, I would like for us all to stand up and turn around and face the camera that is right up there. When I say three, blow Cathy a big kiss.

Our First Selectwoman would like to read something more official for Cathy.

First Selectwoman Jen Tooker:

Thank you for indulging me. Cathy, I hope you're watching. I wanted to share a few official words on behalf of the town of Westport to thank Cathy for years of contributions to our community:

Cathy, with great respect and gratitude and in recognition to your numerous contributions to the town of Westport, we honor you. You have accomplished great things for Westport setting an example of achievement for others to follow. You've shown initiative and leadership, incredible courage and diligence in helping to transform your beloved community into a place of value, sustainability and true friendship. Throughout the years, you've been eager, ready and willing to serve in a variety of volunteer, elected and appointed positions and, without question, you embody the spirit that makes Westport the best place to live work and play. Your hard work coupled with compassion and thoughtfulness is the model by which many others can and do serve. So, on behalf of the town of Westport, your family friends and neighbors, I extend my deepest appreciation for your devotion, your commitment and dedicated service to our wonderful community. Thank you, Cathy. And a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." So, on behalf of the town of Westport and your First Selectwoman, I say thank you.

RTM Announcements

Matthew Mandell, district 1:

I'm sorry Sue left. I would have said a few more words. She did a phenomenal job and we're going to miss her a lot. Two Chamber of Commerce things to talk about: Coming back after two years due to COVID, will be the Saugatuck caroling. Six Orphenians will be joining me and we will be going to 14 different restaurants down in Saugatuck and we will be singing three songs a piece. That will be Saturday, the 10th. It will be from 6:30 to 8:30. If you want to be there and see the kids come in and sing, make your reservations now. Fourteen chamber restaurants are participating. I'm not going to name them now. You can go online and see them for yourself. If you want to see a cool community event, come on down to Saugatuck on Saturday night. The other thing is the Chamber is going to be running its first holiday party which we haven't run for two years on COVID. That will be on the 15th at Rizzuto's from 5:30 to 7:30. So, if you want to interact with the business community, come on down. It's \$25. You get to have food and drinks and participate with the rest of the community so come on down. That's it for the

Chamber. RTM Planning and Zoning Committee, I've received a couple of calls recently about what it takes to appeal a P&Z decision. That would be regarding the Hamlet. So, RTM Planning and Zoning Committee, we may be on call quick and that would turn into the full RTM being on call. If anybody wants to ask me what does it entail, I'll be happy to talk to you about it. No one has said they are going to do it as yet but there have been some inquiries and we'll see how that works out. I just wanted to let you know that it might happen.

Mr. Wieser:

Mr. Liccione has put up some programs from Arline's very nice service. The video link is on Dan Woog. There are programs up here if anyone is interested in seeing those from the very nice service.

There were 29 members present. Absent: Purcell, Shaum, Bram, Talmadge, Batteau, Shackelford, Schneeman.

If you should need to leave the meeting prior to our conclusion this evening, please let us know by email or text, please.

Announcements:

Assuming that the business of our meeting is completed tonight, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTM will be on January 3.

Before we turn to the call, traditionally, the senior member of the RTM conducts the portion of the meeting pertaining to the election of a Moderator. Mr. Klinge is our senior member, having served for 25 years, and so I am happy to turn the gavel, or in this case the mike, over to Mr. Klinge. Before I do so, I would like to advise you all of a change in the way we operate this election which by the Town Charter is required on an annual basis. This is the sixth time I have been nominated for something. You all have heard many speeches about my background and last year you heard Ms. Karpf's as Deputy Moderator. So I have asked for the nominators and seconders for the two of us, that the speeches be dispensed with and we get on with the meeting. I hope you agree that they are unnecessary!

Mr.Klinge would you please take the gavel.

Jack Klinge, district 7:

Good evening. This is my 15 minutes of fame every couple of years. Tonight is our organizational meeting for election of the Moderator and Deputy Moderator. The way our procedures work is that I will run the election for the Moderator and then the newly-elected Moderator will return to take charge, and I will be back to my normal seat in the gallery and start my 26th year and work on how I pronounce the word "second". (2022-2023). May I remind everyone that this is not a resolution so, as a nomination, it may be seconded but does not need to be. We're acting under section A162-11 of the RTM Rules of Procedure: Voting for the election of the Moderator or Deputy Moderator shall be by signed ballot; however, if only one candidate is nominated then we'll choose to

have the election by raising of hands. If you are going to raise your hand, please raise it on the right side and well in view. We now have 29 members. Is that right, Ms. Fuchs?

Ms. Fuchs: Yes, it is.

The secretary read Item #1: To take such action as the meeting may determine, to elect a Moderator of the Representative Town Meeting.

Mr. Klinge:

At this time, the floor is open for nominations for the position of Moderator of the RTM. I recognize Mr. Chris Tait, District 1:

Christ Tait, district 1:

I'm here to let you guys know, I'm here to nominate Jeff Wieser as our Moderator for another term. I could spend three or four hours talking about his resume. As he said, we don't want to go into all that. Let's just say his community, what he's given to this community, what he's given to sharable goods in this town, we know all that. So, again, I nominate Jeff Wieser to be Moderator. I think his leadership so far has been great as a team and as an RTM so I look forward to more of his leadership.

Mr. Klinge:

Thank you, Mr. Tait. Is there a second? I recognize Ms. Lautenberg, District 7.

Ellen Lautenberg, district 7:

I second everything that Chris just said. We are very fortunate to have Jeff as our fearless leader and I am honored to second his nomination.

Mr. Klinge:

Thank you, Ms. Lautenberg. Are there any other nominations for Moderator of the RTM? I see no hands. Are there any other hands, Ms. Fuchs?

Ms. Fuchs: I don't see any.

Mr. Klinge:

Seeing none, we go to public comment. Traditionally, there has been little or no public comment during these elections; however, our Town Charter does allow for anyone from Westport to speak. Are there any members of the electorate who would like to speak? Seeing none, we will go to the vote. Since there is only one nominee we can proceed with a show of hands. Please raise your right hand. All those in favor of Jeff Wieser as Moderator please raise your hand.

Mr. Klinge:

The vote is 28-0-1. Mr. Liccione is abstaining. Jeff Wieser is our continuing new Moderator. Congratulations, well done. We look forward to a wonderful period of your term. Come up and take the mic. It's all yours.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you, Mr. Klinge and thank you Mr. Tait and Ms. Lautenberg. Thank you to all the RTM for your support tonight as well. I'm not going to say anything other than I'm not sure why but I like this job and I'm very happy to be here for another year. I'm looking forward to another good year of interesting conversation, deliberation, discussion and not too many one o'clock meetings.

Our next order of business is the election of the Deputy Moderator.

The secretary read item #2 of the call – To elect a Deputy Moderator of the Representative Town Meeting.

Mr. Wieser:

In the interest of efficiency, we will use the same procedures for election of Deputy Moderator as for Moderator. This is not a resolution. A nomination may be seconded but does not need to be. Under section A162-11 of the RTM Rules of Procedure, voting for the election of Deputy Moderator shall be by signed ballot; however, if only one candidate is nominated then the vote for these offices may be by a show of hands at the discretion of the Moderator. At this time, nominations are open for the Deputy Moderator of the Representative Town Meeting. The Chair recognizes Ms. Briggs.

Brandi Briggs, district 7:

I would like to nominate my friend Lauren Karpf for Deputy Moderator. I have pages and pages of all that Lauren has done but I will spare you in the interest of time. We are so very fortunate to have her leadership skills and voice on the RTM and as Deputy Moderator.

Mr. Wieser: Thank you Ms. Briggs. Is there a second? Ms. Milwe.

Liz Milwe, district 1:

It's an honor to second Lauren's nomination. She's a great mom. She's a lawyer. She's been a great part of the RTM. She's a clear thinking. She has a sense of humor. She has Chaired two very difficult committees. It's an honor to have her and she's a great team with Jeff Wieser.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you Ms. Milwe. Thank you Ms. Briggs. Is there any other nomination for Deputy Moderator? Seeing none, we will move right to the vote.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

By show of hands, Ms. Karpf is elected Deputy Moderator unanimously 29-0.

Lauren Karpf, district 7:

I just want to say thank you very much. Thank you Liz. Thank you Brandi. I am looking forward to another term as Deputy Moderator and working with Jeff.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you Ms. Karpf and we all look forward to working with you too.

The secretary read item #3 of the call - Upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Board of Education for \$216,056.00 from the Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, to enhance social needs of students at all five Elementary Schools.

Presentation

Superintendent Tom Scarice:

Thank you for having us. These are tough acts to follow. Thank you for having us. I'll give a little background as we are booting up. This is the third of our requests for the Board of Education in regards to ARPA funds. You may recall the first two that we were here for. Just to go back a little, the COVID relief funds at the Federal level were disbursed to municipalities and local Board of Education in two ways. ARPA for municipalities and the ESSER Funds came directly to the Board of Education which is uncommon for Federal Funds to do that. We put those to good use. Our challenge right now is those positions and those programs that the ESSER funds are funding are sun setting. So, during the budget process, you'll hear us talk about how we'll bridge that gap. At the same time our ESSER presentations were made, probably a year ago or so, the town was presenting a plan for the ARPA funds. I was actually in this room at a Board of Finance meeting. I was done with the presentation. I walked out and by the time I got in my car there were phone calls. Can you make a presentation to the Board of Finance at the next meeting to at least have a discussion about if the ARPA funds would benefit probably the demographic that was hit the hardest in the pandemic, that's our kids. We were glad to take up the opportunity, knowing that these were municipal funds. It would need to be something that would meet the needs of our kids who experienced a lot of negative effects because of the pandemic especially around their social, emotional development. So, we tried to find programs that we felt would certainly meet that need and also programs that would also benefit the community as well. So, with the high school, we proposed an outdoor learning course, an outdoor ropes course which was approved at all levels through the RTM and was implemented. We've had some great experiences so far. The weather is not cooperating today. It will get colder. In the fall, I'm not sure if you saw some of the media coverage on it. It is certainly exactly what we were hoping for. At the middle school level, supply chain issues delayed the program that was approved at the RTM level, our fitness structures which is more appropriate for adolescent type outdoor activity. I am reluctant to call it a playground because middle schoolers don't gravitate to a playground as much as what we had proposed. We got their feedback, again, outdoor learning, social and emotional development that was approved. We are looking to get supplies, hopefully by February and installed by spring so we're excited about that. The elementary level, we had a false start, full disclosure. I had been made aware and this is pretty common, I had been made aware of equity issues across schools when there are, I call them siblings. There are two middle schools. I call them siblings. There are five elementary schools, I call them siblings. My initial charge to the administration was to engage the faculty and for

the principals to talk to the faculty about something we could do at all five schools. After a good month of frustration, I realized it was probably not the best approach because each school had similar needs of social and emotional development of helping their kids but there were certainly different needs to fill from a programming perspective. So, what you are going to see tonight is the overarching theme that what we have put together and we have presented to the Education Committee and the Finance Committee certainly does fill that need of social and emotional development, something that was really impacted during the pandemic but three of the schools have a little bit more of a take on how they are approaching it and two of our schools have another. So, I'm going to go through each of the five schools just to give you an idea of where we are. We have much more of a focus at Coleytown and Long Lots and Saugatuck on what we call sensory equipment. For Greens Farms and Kings Highway, what they have been working on is an outdoor learning space. Our overarching theme here is meeting the social and emotional needs of our students. The challenging situation for our students during the pandemic were some missed opportunities to learn how to self-regulate. We've seen that impact across all grades from our youngest learners up. Back in 2016, *Brain Rules* author, John Medina spoke here to Westport families about the importance of movement and benefits to the brain. I always go back to myself. I rarely can sit and sustain being at my desk for long periods of time. I self-regulate myself by getting up. Sometimes I will go and talk to Elio to distract myself before I get back on or my colleagues. Kids are learning that still at a young age and we try to give them opportunities to develop them and those capacities. But those opportunities for sensory equipment that we are looking to request here can help students regulate their social, emotional and physical needs. As adults, you'll notice two in the modern workplace, standing desks, alternative seating for folks at work. We're looking for a kind of a child version of that here. A lot of consultation with teachers, occupational therapists and our school psychologists for the indoor and outdoor sensory equipment that we are requesting here. You can see some visuals here of what we are talking about. These are tools that address sensory needs in schools. They have a variety of options. Some are larger furniture items to promote movement. Some are smaller accessories that provide sensory input to kids while they are just stationary which is a part of the school day as well. We don't want them to be the longest part of the school day. It is part of the learning experience. Some larger kinesthetic furniture items such as pell desks, some collaborative kinesthetic work stations. What these do is engage a variety of larger muscle groups. They promote movement. They optimize blood flow and oxygen to the brain. The bottom line is they are brain friendly and they help improve focus and attention. Smaller furniture items promote movement. You'll see the wobble stools and active chairs. We can use those at our existing desks and throughout the room. We have other accessories that we are requesting that can attach to existing furniture such as the wiggle wobble feet and the foot fidgets. Those attach to the bottom of chairs and desks for kids who may need them. There are stationary sensory products that meet a variety of needs such as a weighted lap pad. Weighted blankets are pretty popular now too. My wife, she won't see this, is getting one for Christmas. It's a pretty common thing now to provide calming, increasing engagement for kids as well. Peace corner, relaxation stations, as well as noise cancelling head phones for kids if they want to focus inward to increase their focus level and some hand held and tactile fidgets and visual sensory input to help promote calming for students as well. So, there is a whole

suite of tools here. It is not just one tool or another. I think the take away for the funding bodies, and I've said this at each level, is these are things that wouldn't make it to the finish line in a budget. I've done budgets for 11 years as a Superintendent. I said this last year and I'll say it again, I don't think I'll ever hear "It's going to be a great budget year Tom." We know every budget year is a tough budget year and these are the kind of things that have a tough time making it to the finish line. They truly do make a difference. Small items in differences in big ways for kids. We are also going to look outside here because part of our requests, the three schools we talk about here, Saugatuck, Coley El and Long Lots are tools that impact sensory needs outside. Outdoor tools, they are multi-sensory but really encourage kids to interact. So, a lot of kids in the pandemic broke off into smaller pods consistent pods, groups of two and three that they played with over time. They weren't necessarily thrust into a playground setting where there was a forced collaboration of game playing at times. They were looking for opportunities for kids to collaborate again, play together, work together. Each of the schools chose tools and equipment that would enhance current playground structures. So, rather than a blanket of everyone is going to have product x, y, and z, the Principals all worked with their PE teachers, their occupational therapists, their faculty to find things that fit their current environment. Some of the tools are musical. There are drums and chimes. These allow for unstructured musical play can creation groups. Others provide for simulation to help kids gain balance, coordination skills. The super nova at Compo Beach is a kid favorite. Things like this, tools that promote cooperative problem solving, such as the pendulum swing. The swing requires kids work together and coordinate their movements to get the swing started and continue swinging. These are highly engaging outdoor tools for kids. The schools are working out which tools are best. Our PTA's have been very generous at the elementary level. They have really gone above and beyond to help furnish playgrounds over the years. This is supplementary and, again, it's really hard when I am trying to come with a reasonable overall number to recommend to the Board of Education and, ultimately, to the RTM to have a lot of these items that probably wouldn't make it. So, we had a lot of that in mind when we put this together. Pivoting to Greens Farms and Kings Highway, both schools here had been working on and planning on some type of outdoor learning spaces. Greens Farms was a little bit ahead of the curve there. There was an outdoor courtyard area. Kings Highway, for the better part of a year now, has been working with their PTA, kind of a big campaign, to help fund an outdoor learning space. These spaces will help extend the lessons outside, help develop creativity, help improve attention. There are opportunities for kinetic learning, just the overall healthy and active lifestyles be being outside with fresh air and movement. For school use, it will be used for general education, for special education. This can be used for our summer program, the six weeks we do for extended summer program. Probably, we'll get good activity 10 or 11 months out of the year. Yesterday was a good example. It was chilly but kids could still go outside. Finland and Sweden, some of those nations are outside in 20 or 25 degree weather. I'm not suggesting that but we certainly can get a good 10 months out of this out of the year. We do have at Greens Farms, in particular, an intensive resource room which is for our most fragile learners and this would be a great resource to bring those students out to to get some fresh air for movement, as well. It's a very safe and secure space. It's fenced in. The space would never be identified for any type of school expansion. If you've ever been to Greens Farms, you have to go around the school to

the left. There is a beautiful area back there where there's a garden. It would be a 20' x 16' hexagon structure with benches that definitely could accommodate 20 plus kids, pressure treated pine and composite decking, about a 20 year life span. It should be able to accommodate at least one, with small bodies, up to two classes at a time. There will be a floor deck but not the one in the photo. The pressure treated frame and the galvanized hardware that we have proposed here is good for the elements and we've been told is good for the longevity of the structure as well. If you've been to Kings Highway, there's nothing there right now. We would create a space that could be used by the school and by the community. Lessons in all subject areas could be brought out there. Meetings could be held out there. Specialists could be out there when they are meeting with kids. There are also a couple of clubs that the students, when they heard about this, were interested in starting. A garden club is one and we talked about some other outdoor clubs. A couple of teachers were just approved for a raised garden bed grant so this space will certainly be a great location to house that garden and students can work out of there. Kings Highway is a bit unique because the drop off and pick up location is a distance from the building. So, the added benefit here, if you are going out in inclement weather, there is a nice overhang to brace you from the rain we got today. There are summer camps at Kings Highway, as well, each year. They certainly would benefit from using space like this as well. The proposed structure here, the shade fabric, the 10 year warrantee, good specs with winds and so forth. We've had this all checked out. It is 12 to 14 weeks they say, they would need to look at for installation. Kings Highway, as I've said, their PTA was pretty ambitious in what they are looking to design originally. They are looking to ultimately add on a more formal flooring which is pretty expensive but that is part of their fundraising campaign but these funds would be used for the ceiling and the overall structure and as much as we could of the flooring but it will be challenging to do that. Research and talking with our consultants, the hemp shape pavilion is the covering of choice. It seems to be the most durable. Then again, when we are able to establish full funding for the flooring, we will consult with the town to determine what is the most appropriate material. These are some add ons that the PTA will help fund and fundraise for possibly down the road: outdoor library, sun dial, greenhouse, night animal camera, projector, white boards. You can see the list here. Principal Tracy Carbone surveyed our teachers at Kings Highway and she got this wish list. Every year, when our generous PTA asks what we are funding for, now we have a focal point for the Kings Highway community to build around. It's a pretty exciting proposition for Kings Highway. The cost breakdown, the total is \$216,000. Going by schools, you can see a difference between Greens Farms, for example, who is having a fundraising event this spring which is offsetting a good portion of theirs for additional playground, enhancement to the outdoor learning space so their total request is less relatively speaking than the others as a result of that. I believe all of these numbers are in the packet of each of the schools here: Saugatuck, Long Lots, Coley El, Greens Farms and Kings Highway. A little bit of supplement from the PTA at Kings Highway. As you can see, the amount they have considered to kick in at this point. So, I appreciate the opportunity. A great night to be here for all the well wishing and congratulations. I'll take any questions.

Committee report

Finance Committee, Seth Braunstein, district 6:

There's not a hell of a lot for me to add here. Superintendent did a very thorough job. I would just highlight a couple of quick points. I think the Superintendent contributed this point but I would stress it that the funding for this equipment is not something that would be typically included in the operating budget. The ARPA funds allow us to go do it on another level. We've done it for the ropes course for the high school, we've done that for the additional equipment that will be furnished for the middle schools, and this is an effort to try and provide the elementary school children with a social and emotional learning method or means. All these children have suffered through COVID. The other thing I would stress is that to me, in the conversation this evening, it was very thoughtful. It wasn't just a blanket approach with each of the elementary schools providing specific detail of what they needed. It was not a one size fits all. Other issues that came up in our committee meeting that got some discussion were whether these had been contemplated prior to COVID. It was clear that the goals and the aspirations were there, that ARPA funds were clear to help us realize some of those aspirations. We also had discussion of whether the placement of the equipment or outdoor classrooms would potentially impede any future growth plans or modular placements and we were assured that it would not be an issue. There was also an acknowledgement that these were, in fact, requests that were in keeping with the letter and the spirit of how the ARPA funds were meant to be expended. Aligned with that was an acknowledgement that these equipment requests were, in fact, one time in nature as opposed to programmatic requests which might necessitate ongoing funding. Superintendent Scarice mentioned it but it was neat to see that the school PTA's would be able to build upon this ARPA request and add bells and whistles as the schools saw fit to further augment the benefit. For Finance, a motion was made by Nancy Kail, seconded by Noah Hammond and it passed by a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Education Committee, Ms. Karpf:

There is very little to add. The only thing I will say is we discussed security concerns and learned that the SRO walked the classroom site as part of this process. We also discussed ongoing maintenance costs and repairs. Both of those should be minimal and will be covered in ongoing budgets. The motion was made and seconded and it passed 7-0.

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. Public comments are limited to 3 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 \$216,056.00 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, to enhance social needs of students at all five Elementary Schools, is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

Peter Gold, district 5:

I noticed, as you said, that the request was different for each school. Apparently, only Saugatuck and Long Lots wanted things inside. The other schools did not want them inside. Because they already have them? They don't need them?

Mr. Scarice:

That was delegated to each school to figure out what was needed. It was a very thoughtful process. They engaged faculty. There was not a need at their school that was seen.

Jimmy Izzo, district 3:

I love what you did with the jungle thing. I'm all about team building and kids being outside. This appropriation seems more to me personally as a want than a need. I understand that you've gone through the safety factors and everything. I'm on the fence with it. I know that it meets the ARPA guidelines. It seems like you guys were working to find a way to get ARPA money. This is more of a question to our body. We have a Board of Finance telling us we have all this stuff coming down the road. We have a new school. We have all this coming down the road. I'm a little bit confused how we are going forward with this. I probably am going to listen to some more people. Hopefully, some more people can explain it and say why they are in favor of it. I'm up in the air on my vote but I'm hoping somebody can convince me that this is a need rather than a want.

Chris Tait, district 1:

One question: With the ARPA money, as long as I have been on the RTM, there has been a lot of discussion about our buildings. I'm just asking if we discussed using any of this money for our capital projects. I just want to know if that was discussed so I can tell my constituents that we looked at everything.

Mr. Scarice:

What a great question. I'd like to remind everyone that we were invited to apply for these funds. It wasn't our idea to come. We had received ESSER funds so when we got around the table and began to talk about that invitation, we gravitated towards that part of the criteria that looked at the impact of the pandemic and we thought about our kids. Part of the invitation was how our kids were impacted. You've raised a good point. I've talked openly about our long term capital plan. I think the order of magnitude is rather small in comparison to what's needed for capital. But I do respect that and I'm never in a position of telling a community what they can and should afford. I just make recommendations. I totally respect that perspective as well.

Lisa Newman, district 8:

I'm going to speak to Jimmy's comments and maybe provide an answer. I don't know if it will be a satisfactory answer but here I am. As many of you know, I was a State certified teacher and I have two young children who are still in the elementary school. Also, a high schooler, but she's enjoying the ropes course. I spent a lot of time in the classroom since coming back from COVID when they opened up for volunteers again

both as a room representative, as a constant volunteer and as a mom. I can tell you that these kids need whatever support that our funds can qualify them for. Something I said a few meetings ago applies here. When we were speaking about the study for the intersection at North Avenue and I made the comment in front of this body. I said we've got our Director of Public Works and one of our police officers here saying this is what we need. They are the experts. We're not. We're not traffic safety experts in this room here. I'm hearing from our Superintendent that this proposal was a compilation from our elementary school principals, all five of them joined together and our teachers. I hear that as a former teacher and say those are our experts, guys. We have the best school district in the State. We have the best educators, as far as I'm concerned, anywhere in this nation. If this is what our experts are saying that they need to carry them through this chapter, my layman observation is, by all means, these kids do need these features if that is what will help them navigate through and keep Westport schools such that we have people move here because we have the best school district in the State. So, if we are going to respect educators and our school system that draws community members to this town, I'd say we have to fund this. I'll say this at every meeting, we defer to our experts.

Jaime Bairaktaris, district 4:

I can't answer any questions. I'm not very good at that but I can explain what I've seen with a lot of the equipment on that list, I worked in an elementary school with our behavior team for a good few years. I wrote down some of the items that I remember we used to fight over. If you look at that list at a town level and say why are we buying beanbag chairs, it looks a little ridiculous; however, I know in our school the beanbag chairs, we threw down four in a corner by accident, The kids call them "Big Joes". The kids ended up sitting in that spot forever. That became a social corner, We didn't mean for that to happen but that's what happened and that's where a group of kids went, They became friends, went to lunch bunch and then came and hung out afterwards. It seems simple but it was a really nice way to turn a space from a classroom to a low intensity space for kids who may be uncomfortable in a classroom. It gives them the ability to get comfortable. If that's the difference between a kid sitting in a classroom longer or leaving, they are actually really helpful. We thought they may be a distraction when we got more of them into our school but they weren't. It's really kind of a snake oil. Is this really going to work? It kept them in the classroom longer and it kept them engaged or not focusing on other things they could be doing like tapping a pencil or tapping their leg or things that we would start to notice. The outdoor space, we just put one on our school and we all sort of rolled our eyes. We took it back because it's being used by classes still today. It rained and there was an art class out there sitting under the awning. It was awesome because it's a new way for them to retain information, figure out what they're doing. It's a new place to go. I think it's nice that we're trying to complete the circuit of the district. For five schools, I think it's reasonable. These aren't needs. These aren't pencils. These aren't staff members. But, if you're in a school, for some of those kids, if it's the difference of being in a desk for a little longer, it's important. I think it's something we definitely have to consider.

Harris Falk, district 2:

I know the SRO walked through. Did the Fire Department walk through? I know there are some security cameras on the outside, just to make sure it's not blocking it.

Mr. Scarice: Yes. The Fire Department did the walk through.

Mr. Falk:

They are the experts. That's why we have them here to take care of our kids and to educate our kids. The part of this that I'm actually disturbed about is that our experts felt that they couldn't come to us normally. We had to suddenly have this extra funding come in. It's the kind of thing, yes, give it to us. If we don't have the money, we'll say, 'gee this is nice thing'. It shouldn't just be we found something in a couch cushion. You're the experts.

Ms. Karpf:

I agree. We have to trust the experts. I am admittedly not jumping up and down the way I felt about the ropes course and the middle school fitness course for lack of a better word. I do a lot with my kids at the school. I've seen the impact from the pandemic and it's real. There is no doubt about that. It's also real that there's learning loss in math. They lost out on group projects, study skills. There's a lot and those are things we're going to have to address going forward. This doesn't answer everything but if this is what the experts are saying... I gave the example before, when we have someone come talk to us about a bridge, I sit in my seat and say I'm not an engineer. If they say the bridge needs repairs, it needs repairs. I have to remind myself of that tonight and that's what I'm doing tonight because I do think there are needs that need to be addressed. Two quick questions asked at the committee level. The principals aren't here so if they can't be addressed, we'll just move on. One was the shade roof at Kings Highway. It's a lot more expensive than the wooden structure at Green's Farms and the Greens Farms structure has almost twice the life expectancy. So that seemed a little off to me, why you wouldn't do two wooden structures. The second is hopefully the rebuild of Coleytown Elementary is coming quickly. With all these structures being put in, it seems that the installation costs are more than the actual structures. So, I don't know if there is a way to put something into that contract now about moving them or if they can be moved without paying that massive cost again.

Mr. Scarice:

After our meeting, I emailed Tracy Carbone and didn't forward the response. I did get the answer on that and I will forward it first thing. I apologize.

Mr. Gold:

This is just to build on what Jimmy said. I agree that these guys are the experts. We should trust the experts. I intend to vote for this. I think these are useful things but our job on the RTM is to balance the needs of all the town's experts not just say 'Oh he's an expert, we're going to give him the money'. Because I can bring in experts from the Police Department and the Public Works Department, the Health and Human Services Department. They can all tell me they are experts and they have experts' needs. So, yes, we trust the experts but our job is to balance what they are asking for with what we

know the other needs are. As I said, I'm going to vote for this but don't take their word that we should give them the money.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously 29-0.

The secretary read item #4 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$482,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for an Engineer Assessment, Design Consultant, Project and Construction Managers for the feasibility study for the Long Lots Elementary School Project.

Presentation

Jay Keenan, district 2, Chair, Long Lots Building Committee:

We are here asking for, for lack of a better term "seed money" to start the project. We are asking for \$482,000 for hiring of a building envelope engineer to do an assessment on the existing building as well as MEP engineers to work in conjunction with them to look at the existing mechanical systems within the building. At the same time that is going on, we are planning on putting out RFQ's for architects, construction managers and once we have the assessment from the engineers, we'll move forward with a feasibility study for a possible new school, possible renovation of the existing school or something in between, maybe renovations and additions. The plan is to have the building envelope engineers and the MEP engineers starting in next week and during school break because they will do some destructive testing so they can look inside the walls. They will provide us with a report sometime in January. From that, along with all the other reports we have from the school, the Antinozzi reports, Tools for Schools reports, energy bills that we have, we will then start with the feasibility studies and, hopefully, late spring, early summer, we will come back with options for these three along with costs, schedules and then the Board of Education, Board of Finance and RTM can make a decision which way to go forward.

Committees report

Finance and Public Works Committees, Mr. Braunstein:

On Nov. 22, the Finance Committee and Public Works Committee got together. I'm not going to go through all the details that Jay did such a good job summarizing for us. I would just say the takeaway from this is these really are about an initial assessment and subsequent feasibility study. The right way to think about these funds is seed money that will be expended to try and get us a sense for what the potential options are for either improving or replacing the current building. It's not making a decision. It's establishing a base upon which an informed decision can be made. The incremental piece that I might be able to provide here to follow up on what Jay said is two things. First off, I think it's important to note that both Jay and Don recused themselves from voting on this as members of the Building Committee. To eliminate even the hint of conflict of interest, they thought it was best to not participate in the voting outcome of these committees. We heard a couple of interesting discussions that evening. One was whether or not enrollment trends might have something to say about what the go forward plan is going to be. The Board of Education Vice Chair Liz Heyer joined us that

evening to let us know that they are seeing enrollment projections post-COVID that indicate increasing student numbers. The Board of Education is also awaiting an updated assessment of building capacity across all the buildings in the district. But she explained, frankly, that Long Lots is already bursting at the seams and that maintaining it as an elementary school would be absolutely necessary in light of the increased migration to Westport. We also had some questions of whether or not we could potentially respond to these higher enrollment numbers by utilizing the Hillspoint School, in theory as a way to address the growing student population. What we learned was that would precipitate other issues for the community considering there are currently about 300 preschoolers in that building. Yes. We could potentially take back control of that structure. It would have a cascading effect that would create other problems. There were also some discussions about some of the shortcomings of that building currently. Hillspoint lacks sprinklers currently and would require significant amount of maintenance in order to become an elementary school. So, frankly, the conclusion was it is a theoretical alternative but it is not really feasible. For Finance, a motion was made by Nancy Kail, seconded by Stephen Shackelford, we voted 4-0 in favor without Don's vote, one recusal. For Public Works, a motion was made by Peter Gold, seconded by Andrew Colabella. They passed unanimously 6-0 with one recusal.

Education Committee, Ms. Kail:

I have very little to add other than after a motion and second, the motion passed 7-0.

Members of the 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 of \$482,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for an Engineer Assessment, Design Consultant, and Project and Construction Managers for a feasibility study for the Long Lots Elementary School Project is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Wieser:

As was previously stated, Mr. Keenan is recusing himself

Members of the RTM – no comments

By show of hands, the motion passes 28-0 with one recusal.

The secretary read item #5 of the call – 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 of \$385,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the replacement of the existing sidewalks leading to Greens Farms School along Morning Side Drive South, Hillandale Road and Center Street. A STEAP Grant was awarded to the Town in the amount of \$250,000.00.

Presentation

Pete Ratkiewicz, Director of Public Works:

Back in the end of July, we found out that there was a STEAP Grant available. We could apply again for another sidewalk section. As you may know, we had used a STEAP Grant to rebuild the sidewalk on Maple Avenue South and that project has been successfully completed. This is an attempt to do it all over again. In this case, we have applied for \$250,000 and committed to another \$100,000 match. If you add those two together and put a 10 percent contingency on that, that is another \$35,000 so the request is for \$385,000. I want to point out that in my Oct. 17 memo to First Selectwoman Tooker, there is a math mistake. The explanation that I just gave you is \$250,000 from the State of Connecticut Small Town Economic Assistance Program, \$100,000 commitment from the town and a 10 percent contingency on the \$350,000 total. The walkways in question are all leading to Greens Farms School. The walkways out there are either in poor or very bad condition now. Over the past five years, this body has charged the Public Works Department with improving sidewalks and in accordance with our priorities, we are trying to improve the existing sidewalks adding sections where it makes sense to make a complete sidewalk network. Our first goal is to improve the ones leading to all of the schools. We have been concentrating a lot on the Staples/Bedford complex and connectivity between Bedford and Coleytown. We did some sidewalks around Long Lots as well including Maple Avenue South, Maple Avenue North. This is concentrating on the Greens Farms School area because of the poor conditions there. This would be Hillandale Road, Center Street, and Morningside that all come from the south. Obviously, there are other sidewalks from the north but this is one block of walkways about 4,460 feet of sidewalk. We will be bidding this out just as we did with the Maple Avenue South project, our normal purchasing procedure and, if everything goes well, we anticipate doing the construction work over the summer of 2023. If that schedule gets pushed out due to other work, we will push it to 2024 but I'm going to try very hard to get these sidewalks in next year. With that, I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Committees report

Finance and Public Works Committees, Mr. O'Day: 3

As Pete said, the project will bring sidewalks approaching Greens Farms School to our standard of five feet wide with curbs. It is estimated that about 80 percent of the proposed work will be done on existing surfaces and 20 percent will be essentially new construction. The total sidewalk area to be restored on the roads leading to Greens Farms is 4,460 linear feet and that is important because it shows just how expensive sidewalks are. It's \$83.00 per linear foot, not altogether different from milling and paving a road so sidewalks definitely need it but it is expensive. As stated by Pete, the project is \$135,000. That includes 10 percent with the STEAP grant filling out the rest. But, should the STEAP grant not come through for any reason, that \$385,000 will not just be spent. The project will go back to the RTM. A question asked by RTM members included whether the project will bring additional signage and crosswalks. The answer is no. A question asked by a member of the public was whether this would bring additional bike lines. The answer there was no as well. For the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Don O'Day and seconded by Nancy Kail for a unanimous 5-0 vote. The Public

Works Committee motion was made by Peter Gold and seconded by Jack Klinge with a unanimous 8-0 vote.

Members of the 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 of \$385,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the replacement of the existing sidewalks leading to Greens Farms Elementary School along Morningside Drive South, Hillandale Road and Center Street is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Lowenstein:

I'm going to raise a question which I raised at the committee level which is applicable to not only this motion but also the next involving the Coleytown/Bedford schools. It involves school transportation. I asked at the committee meeting what impact better sidewalks would have on school bus transportation and offsite I was told by someone from the Board of Education that it is always good for the kids to walk but the buses still have to run. I raised an additional question and I'm hoping someone from the education administration is still here is that what is the radius from a school in which a student is expected to walk to the school as opposed to being picked up. I don't know if anyone here can answer that question. I was hoping that they would be. And the second question is if you can reduce the number of pickups in that radius, it will improve the ability of school buses to reach more students in less time. There has been a problem with not enough drivers, not enough buses, etc. I'm afraid, looking around here, I don't see anybody in the audience who can answer that question. I'm a little disappointed because I was told there would be someone here to answer that question. I'm afraid I will be voting no simply because I expected to get an answer. I was promised that there would be someone here to answer those questions. I'm sorry.

By show of hands, the motion passed 28-0-1. Mr. Lowenstein abstained.

The secretary read item #6 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in the existing network program. This project is for sidewalks leading to Bedford Middle School, Coleytown Middle School, and sections along Riverside Avenue.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This appropriation may sound familiar because every two years I come and ask for a block of money to do sidewalks. Again, back in 2018, this board sort of charged me with trying to improve our network. At the time, our sidewalk condition, on a scale of one to 100, was 48. So, in the past five years, we've done enough sidewalks to bring that number from 48 to 62. Most of those sidewalks are around the schools. This one here is

going to be a continuation of the sidewalk around Coleytown and some other critical areas in town that don't lead to schools especially Riverside Avenue which is a concrete sidewalk and has a lot of sections that are in bad shape, not the part in front of Riverside Park because that's done now. We will use this as judiciously as we can to go around town and continue to improve existing sidewalks. We're not necessarily building new sidewalk sections here. It's very important that we bring our existing sidewalk network up to a level. I'd be satisfied if we got to 75 at this point. Ideal would be 78 or so but we're getting close to that level so that we have a good maintainable sidewalk network. At that point, we can consider extending additional sidewalks in areas that people have requested them. For now, without completely blowing up my operating budget, this is a program that was started by Steve Edwards, my predecessor, back in 2012, I believe and every year. He came in and got a block of funds. We do split it up over a two year period so we have some money to address sidewalks that may have deteriorated. With that, I will take any questions.

Committees report

Finance and Public Works Committees, Mr. Braunstein:

I'll just say a couple of things about this one. First off, there is no steep ground. So the previous project saw significant reimbursement. As Pete said, this is an ongoing expenditure just to make sure our 24 miles of sidewalks are in appropriate condition. We get to address parts of that 24 mile network on an annual basis as part of the operating budget. The only other thing I'd add here is the cost of this project is about \$4.00 per linear foot more than the previous authorization which we just approved. We are at like \$87.50 per linear foot. The difference really is that this is covering disparate areas of town: Bedford, Coleytown, Riverside, as opposed to the Greens Farms project which is one contiguous loop. The fact that they have to set up in different parts of town will lead to a slightly higher cost per foot. Some of the questions that were discussed on the evening of the 22nd related to this frankly focused on other areas of town where there is a desire to see additional sidewalks be created. There was also discussion of when future sidewalks would be considered. There is an anticipation that results from the exhaustive work that the First Selectperson has been leading to determine town infrastructure priorities, some additional sidewalks as well. A Finance Committee motion was made by Nancy Kail and seconded by Don O'Day and approved with a unanimous 5-0 vote. Public Works Committee made a motion by Laurie Church and seconded by Andrew Colabella was also unanimous with 8-0 in favor.

Members of the 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 of \$350,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account, for the replacement of existing sidewalks leading to Bedford Middle School and Coleytown Middle School and along Riverside Avenue, is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Lowenstein:

I just got off the phone with a member of the Board of Education trying answer my question on the previous motion and is there a reason why no one was here tonight. I will continue to abstain. I was told, for example, that there is a study on transportation underway right now in the school system that will address some of these subjects including what the pickup areas are and so forth. I will abstain but the information that I got explained why no one was here.

By show of hands, the motion passes 28-0-1. Lowenstein abstained.

The secretary read item #7 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$550,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account for the purchase of a Freightliner 114SD Van-con Jet Truck to be assigned to the Sewage Collection System Division.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This appropriation is actually for the 2024 fiscal year but we have been offered a fairly good deal that if we commit to the funds for this now, they will start building it for us at 2023 prices. We won't spend the money until after July 1, 2023 in fy2024. This may seem a little strange but it has been done before and one of the things we've seen before is with large pieces of complicated equipment with a lot of steel in it, the market is very volatile. So, a price that we get today may only be good for a month. So, this is actually a fairly good offer. This would be replacing our 2009 IH74 Van-con Jet Truck., The reason this is a very important piece of equipment is this is front line. If we have a clog in the sewer anywhere, this is the truck we bring out. It has a jet that can punch through grease and debris that is in the sewer line so it is a very important tool in our tool box to prevent spillage out of manholes or out of the system.

Committees report

Mr. Keenan:

I thought I was going to have the sewer part to talk about but you covered that right at the end. Pete covered pretty much everything except for the fact that both committees voted unanimously to recommend this to the full RTM.

Members of the 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 of \$550,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account, for the purchase of a Freightliner 114SD Van-con Jet Truck to be assigned to the Sewage Collection System Division, is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM – no comments

By show of hands, the motion passes 29-0.

Mr. Wieser:

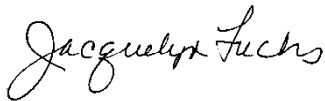
We are all done. Just a couple of things: Party at Liz Milwe's house Dec. 13. Thank you to Liz for putting up your house for another fun, great party. Kristen Purcell is organizing the troops again. If you have signed up for something, thank you. If you haven't, check out the website. Just a reminder, January, we'll be discussing leaf blowers. It could be a long meeting. It would help if you all have a draft of the ordinance as it currently stands just to get familiar with it before January and have your questions pointed and ready to go so we can have an interesting conversation. With that we will adjourn this meeting. Thank you, good night, stay safe and healthy, and I look forward to seeing you all in person in 2023 on Tuesday, January 3rd.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Dunkerton

Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacquelyn Fuchs".

by Jacquelyn Fuchs

ATTENDANCE: December 6, 2022

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Matthew Mandell	X			
	Liz Milwe	X			
	Kristin M. Purcell		X	X	
	Chris Tait	X			
2	Harris Falk	X			
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Louis M. Mall	X			
	Michael Perry	X			
3	Ross Burkhardt	X			
	Lyn Hogan	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	X	
6	Candace Banks	X			
	Jessica Bram		X	X	
	Seth Braunstein	X			
	Cathy Talmadge		X	X	
7	Brandi Briggs	X			
	Lauren Karpf	X			
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Ellen Lautenberg	X			
8	Wendy Batteau		X	X	
	Rachel Cohn	X			
	Lisa Newman	X			
	Stephen Shackelford		X	X	
9	Lori Church	X			
	Nancy Kail	X			
	Sal Liccione	X			
	Kristin Schneeman		X	X	
Total			29	7	