First Selectman Denise Raap called the special meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:00 p.m. with Jodiann Tenney, Jonathan Torrant, Jeffrey Zullo and Christine Harding present on Zoom.

To Discuss and Receive Requests for Consideration for the American Rescue Plan Act Grant Monies

Bantam Cinema and Arts Center

Kennedy Cogan, Treasurer for the Bantam Cinema and Arts Center, presented its request for $15,000 for assistance with operating and utility costs to sustain the Cinema. They are 15% of capacity this year and are far below their gross revenue in cinema before COVID. Oil costs are double and electricity costs are also going up. In order to maintain the operating costs and continue upgrading and refurbishing, they are submitting their request, which J. Tenney said was a valid ARPA request.

Park and Recreation

Gianni Perugini, Chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission, presented its request for $100,000 for its detailed plan for Town Beach upgrades. First they would like to install a 20 ft. x 30 ft. pavilion with low-pitch beams and posts and a concrete base. It would be sited near the beach area. The estimated cost is $68,000 from 2021 pricing. Next they would like to bring electricity to the beach, and would need approval from the Inland Wetlands Commission for digging alongside the road for conduits. There would be a service pedestal near the bathroom. This would provide lighting, with lines running to other areas. They have estimates from Eversource of between $15,000 to $20,000, depending on the conduit. They will submit a site plan for the entire project. They would also like to spend $12,000 to enhance and reconfigure the parking area and add walkways to and from the pavilion and the parking area and upgrade the bathroom facilities, and add outdoor furniture and landscaping.

Looking at a security camera installation at Community Field, G. Perugini said the Finance Director said they could use ARPA money to pay for the $5,000 expense. So they are asking for the ARPA money for this use as well.

D. Raap noted that the $100,000 was already in the Capital plan, so that would have to be approved by that committee first.

Oliver Wolcott Library

Ann Marie White spoke about the need for a generator at the library. They have part of the funding, but are requesting the balance. Although they already have extended wifi access points outside the building, the generator would allow them to continue to offer wifi outside the building when there is a power outage. It would also safeguard the library’s technology and infrastructure from power outages. The generator costs $60,318, and they have $30,318, so they just need to request $30,000 from ARPA funds. They have been tracking their energy needs and sized the generator accordingly. With the generator, Ms
White said they would be able to be open more during inclement weather and power outages. This request was rejected by the Capital Committee previously but should also go back to them again.

Other Public

Burkey Gibney endorsed the Park and Rec request for Town Beach upgrades. He also endorsed support for the Litchfield Community Greenway as another opportunity for outdoor recreation. He further suggested not allocating all the money right away.

Bill Buckley, 160 East Street, said he is not opposed to senior housing, but expanding Wells Run and adding traffic to that property comes out as a flag lot on Route 118. A good portion of that property may be within the 150 ft. setback for wetlands approval. Also the cable goes through his property as an easement, and he just wanted to go on record with this information.

Hearing no other public, the public hearing was closed at 5:34 p.m. by D. Raap.

Denise Raap, First Selectman