SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022 ~ 4:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
IN-PERSON AT LITCHFIELD FIREHOUSE, 258 WEST ST.

Call to Order: First Selectman Denise Raap called the special meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. with Selectmen Jeffrey Zuillo, Jonathan Torrant, Jodiann Tenney and Christine Harding also present.

Present from the ARPA Review Committee were Renee Betar, Elliott Fuessenich, David R. Wilson and Raz Alexe.

ARPA Review Committee - Evaluate Requests for Second Tranche of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The list of 24 requests as of 10/5/22 was reviewed one by one. The goal is to decide if each item should be considered for funding, and if so, where should the source of funds come from. D. Wilson asked if there should also be a cushion left for supplemental uses such as households in need. D. Raap said they do not intend to spend it all down but to use it to benefit most people in town. Perhaps a nonprofit may have a use, and we have until 2024 to allocate it and 2026 to spend it. They also decided to give each consideration a 1, 2, 3 priority rating, with No. 1 being the highest priority.

1. D. Raap said the Broadband Commission had received $50,000 in the last round. They now need an additional $73,165 to complete the second phase of the Town’s broadband rollout. Priority #1.

2. Executive Director Jim Simoncelli said the Housing Authority is requesting $110,000 and has a purchase option on the land that is locked in until next June and the price is agreed to. The goal is to be able to build 4-8 additional housing units for Wells Run. Estimated cost of the project is undetermined without having rights to the property for predevelopment. State funding is available through DEEP. He also said there is no additional driveway planned. Priority #1 with stipulation that funds be returned up until the point of buying the land if the project does not work out. Therefore the Selectmen need to be advised of the predevelopment analysis. D. Raap said they need to find out if there are any building restrictions on the proposed property. Because of this, they changed the designation to Priority #2 until they obtain further information.

3. This is a $40,000 request from East Litchfield Fire for a diesel exhaust capture system. Possibly a Capital Improvements request, although they did receive money in the first round of ARPA. Rated as Priority #1(possibly Capital).

4. This is a Fire Marshal request for $6,000 for fieldwork laptops and an ID badge printing machine. J. Tenney felt this may be an operating cost expense. J. Zuillo said this comes under the Fire Commission’s budget. Priority #1

5. Northfield requests $50,000 for new fire hoses in Northfield. Priority #1(possibly Capital)

6. Litchfield Historical Society, $10,000 to support free children’s programs - Priority #1

7. Technology for public hearings (recording equipment, laptops, etc.) - Est. $25,000: D. Raap said the Annex meeting room will be converted for maximum use for the public and still house the Emergency Operations Center. Priority #1 - waiting for a price.

8. This request is from the Litchfield Land Trust for the project at 28 Russell Street. Priority #1
9. This request is from the Friends of the Litchfield Greenway to extend the trail from 28 Russell St. to the Ghost Trail, with crosswalk. **Priority #1**

10. Litchfield Community Center is requesting $10,000 to recoup administrative costs from COVID Community Essentials Fund where they worked with Food Rescue USA and did not charge any fees. If funded, they will put the money back into the schools and community at holiday time. **Priority #1**

11. Traffic Safety Committee is requesting $75,000 for pedestrian flashing beacons, signs for inside crosswalks, Wamogo flashing beacon and school zone signs, and paint machine for line striping. Wamogo would be involved as well, and it was suggested that the towns of Wamogo help fund with their ARPA funds. R. Alexe said the line striping machine should be deleted ($10,000). This leaves a request of $65,000. They will request a 45% cost share from the towns of Wamogo, and then our cost would be $53,750. **Priority #1**

12. This request is for $60,000 for a Storm Water Study II. R. Alexe spoke of the trouble areas that flood. The first study was funded by the last round of ARPA. **Priority #1**

13. This request of $35,000 is for an HVAC replacement at the Town Hall. Deferred for more discussion.

14. Town Hall Roof Replacement: $100,000 - Removed

15. Gazebo for Litchfield Green, $50,000 - Removed in favor of Town Beach and Sandy Beach requests

16. UV System Replacement at the sewer plant - $250,000: D. Wilson said this is needed. **Priority #1**

17. American Legion Post 27, $50,000 - ADA bathrooms and elevator/lift: **Priority #1**

18. White Memorial Museum HVAC System, $32,000 - **Priority #2**

19. Park & Rec Town Beach Upgrades, $100,000 - Pavilion, electricity, improved landscaping and more parking. R. Alexe said Park & Rec must do its due diligence, as there are many restrictions with White Memorial land, wetlands, and offset 200 ft. from the water. D. Raap also said we need to be sure we have personnel to maintain these improvements. **Priority #1** (with more detail and discussion with Inland Wetlands)

20. Oliver Wolcott Library, $30,000 for library generator: emergency broadband access is available in other areas. **Priority #3**

21. Bantam Cinema & Arts Center, $15,000 to assist with operating and utility costs to sustain. **Priority #1**

22. Sandy Beach Commission, $18,000 for new well: **Priority #1** (Is Morris contributing a percentage?)

23. Sandy Beach Commission, $8,500 for removal of 11 dead ash trees: (see No. 22)

24. Sandy Beach Commission, $56,691.33 for replacement windows, trim materials and labor: (see 22)

**Adjournment:** **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to adjourn at 5:37 p.m. and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Denise Raap, First Selectman