

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022, 6:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

PRESENT

Edward Chmielewski, Jr.
Thomas (TJ) Butcher
Kevin Lyden
Pam Munro

ABSENT

Ron LaBonte

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS – *none*

3. AGENDA:

A. Endorse the ARPA Committee Requested Budget (*Action Item*)

M/S/C: Lyden/Butcher, to endorse the proposed list of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) expenditures, as recommended by the ARPA Committee.

Discussion: First Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Board-appointed members of the ARPA Committee met and elected Selectman Lyden as the Committee's Chairman. Selectman Lyden provided a brief background of the Town's ARPA Funds and the rules, requirements, and guidelines for the expenditure of the funds. The Town has received \$604,000.00 in funding and is expecting to receive an additional \$604,000.00 later this year. There are reporting requirements and the funds may be audited. The proposed list includes items that were requested by the townspeople, boards, commissions, organizations as well as select items that were considered by the Board of Finance for the Town's Capital Plan.

The following items have been expended:

Uncas Health District	\$ 6,000.00
Conference Room 1 Audio/Video System	\$ 7,000.00
SCCOG-ARPA Funds Advisor	\$ 2,000.00

The Advisor, hired through the SCCOG (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments), will help the Town ensure that the funds are properly allocated.

The following items are being proposed for the remaining amount:

TVCCA	\$ 2,000.00
Safe Futures	\$ 6,000.00

Care & Share Food Bank	\$ 6,000.00
Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut	\$ 6,000.00
Homeless Shelter	\$ 6,000.00
Uncas Health District Final Payment	\$ 6,000.00
Cleaning Supplies and Services	\$ 18,000.00
Cargo Trailer for Emergency Supplies & Distribution	\$ 18,000.00
Salem Friends of the Library Programs	\$ 6,000.00
Salem Recreation Programs	\$ 19,000.00
Salem Recreation Trail Upgrades	\$ 22,000.00
<i>Capital Plan Item Request</i>	
Salem Business Programs Development	\$ 15,000.00
Electronic Notification Sign	\$ 26,000.00
Salem Benevolent Fund	\$ 30,000.00
<i>The Fund is utilized to help the Town's residents-in-need.</i>	
Town Hall Cyber/Computer Related Upgrades	\$ 30,000.00
Ambulance Additional Nominal Fees	\$ 36,000.00
<i>The Town currently budgets \$50,000.00 for the Ambulance Nominal Fees.</i>	
<i>The line item is currently overbudget; the additional amount will help balance the line item for the fiscal year.</i>	
AED Replacement – Town wide	\$ 42,000.00
<i>Capital Item Request</i>	
Repurpose Old Salem Library	\$ 50,000.00
<i>An under-used Town building, the Old Salem Library, located near Salem School, will be renovated as an alternative location for small meetings and activities. Renovations will include the addition of an ADA-accessible bathroom, a new septic tank, and other upgrades.</i>	
Emergency Operations Services and Upgrades	\$ 50,000.00
Generator Replacement at School for Designated Shelter	\$ 175,000.00
<i>Capital Item Request. The Board of Education (BOE) requested \$360,000.00 to power the entire school. Because the entire school does not serve as the Town's shelter, it was felt that funding the entire project would not qualify as a valid expenditure of the funds. The designated shelter includes the Gymnasium, Multi-Purpose Room, lower-level classrooms, bathrooms, and showers. The shelter has not been opened over the last 15 years.</i>	
Record Management Software	\$ 12,000.00
<i>Capital Item Request. Salem Volunteer Fire Company's current software the will no longer be supported after 2022. The amount would cover the initial one-time fee for the program's initiation, training, etc.</i>	

Appropriate Misc. Expenses to be determined by the Comm. \$ 8,000.00

The ARPA Committee unanimously endorsed the proposed list. Other proposed, but denied, items included the Dog Park (Capital Item Request), funding for the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, and broadband. Adjustments made by the ARPA Committee included a reduction in the funding for the Salem Friends of the Library Programs and Salem Business Programs Development. Items that are not included in the list for funding could be included in the next list. The list has been reviewed and approved by the SCCOG-ARPA Funds Advisor. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

- E. Schedule Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall, Conference Room One, to act on the ARPA Committee Requests by a yes or no vote (*Action Item*)**

M/S/C: Munroe/Butcher, to schedule a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall, Conference Room One, to act on the ARPA Committee Requests by a yes or no vote. Discussion: While the Town is not required to hold a Special Town Meeting, it was felt that it would be in the Town's best interest to do so for the sake of transparency. The Town Attorney has been consulted with. Should the vote fail, the list will return to the Committee. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

- F. Approve Resolution for the 2020 STEAP Grant (*Action Item*)**

M/S/C: Lyden/Butcher, to authorize First Selectman Ed Chmielewski to accept on behalf of the Town of Salem, a 2020 Connecticut STEAP (Small Towns Economic Assistance Program) Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Replacement of the Underground Fuel Tanks with new Aboveground Fuel Tanks and to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts, and documents necessary. Discussion: Selectman Lyden stated that the application for the STEAP Grant was started by himself during his tenure as the First Selectman and must be transferred over to the current First Selectman. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

7. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Lyden/Munro, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0. Meeting adjourned.