

**TOWN OF SALEM
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Ed Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR

M/S/C: C. Nawrocki/P. Robillard, to elect Selectman Kevin Lyden as the Moderator for this Special Town Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, all in favor. The motion carries.

Selectman Lyden welcomed everyone to our meeting and thanked them for coming out.

Town Clerk Linda Flugrad read the Warning and Notice of this Special Town Meeting.

Selectman Lyden explained the history and what the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is for and what it can be used for. Every municipality in the State is receiving funding; we are getting a total of \$1.2 million. In the first tranche, we received approximately \$604,000, which expenditures were approved at a previous town meeting this year. With this second tranche, the ARPA committee approved expenditures of \$201,500 out of the remaining approximately \$604,000. Once allocated the funding should be expended by 2026; however, we are working to spend it by the end of 2024.

We are not required to hold a town meeting for these expenditures; however, as a means of transparency, that is the purpose of this meeting. These proposed expenditures will be reviewed and discussed. At this meeting, we will vote either “yes” or “no” for the approved expenditures.

M/S/C: P. Munro/P. Robillard, to act on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee approved requests of \$201,500. Voice vote: all in favor. The motion carries.

Selectman Lyden clarified and gave a brief overview of what the funding will be spent towards:

1. Public Works Truck Lift: for safety and efficiency.
2. Recreational Facilities Upgrade: potential bathrooms and storage. These funds are not earmarked for a specific project.
3. Salem Green Cemetery Upgrade: The Town of Salem owns the cemetery.
4. Salem Library/Friends Request: includes both the old and new libraries. This would include some additional expenditures on the old library. The septic system has already been checked. There are also furnace and stacks upgrades. Our “new” library is 17 years old and need some upgrades as well.
5. Town of Salem Security-Related Upgrades.

These expenditures have all been unanimously approved by the ARPA committee.

Discussion:

N. Rabe, 33 Valley Dr., inquired about the truck lift. Selectman Lyden said this truck lift will not be stored in a specific building for work to be done; it can be moved around where work is needed on the vehicles.

D. Robillard, 178 Old Colchester Rd., questioned the accountability of these purchases. Selectman Lyden explained that these are all handled through our Town purchasing policy. Bids have to be obtained, purchase orders have to be completed, and auditing is done.

B. Drennen, Salem Hollow Lane, requested information about the library. The Friends of the Library is a 501(c)3 and is responsible for spending the funds properly.

B. Giegel, 34 Valley Dr., asked about the criteria for the distribution of the funds to which Selectman Lyden explained that anyone can ask for town-related projects to be done. The ARPA Committee will discuss and review town-related projects.

E. Lane, 39 Cockle Hill Rd., asked about the first tranche of \$604,000 and Selectman Lyden gave a brief explanation of what those funds were approved for.

Selectman Lyden also briefly discussed that about 3 years ago, the Town looked into repairing the roof at the Salem School. Due to COVID, that project was postponed. Since that time, we know that pricing for labor and supplies has gone up. We may need to put part of the remaining approximately \$400,000 towards that project.

The question arose as to the school generator being funded from the first tranche of funds. Selectman Lyden informed us that the School is a shelter that could be opened. It does not have to be opened because we also have access to other local town/city shelters. The generator is for electricity to that part of the school that would be used for the shelter. It is not for generating power to the entire school.

The ARPA Committee is comprised of mostly board and commission chairpersons. They meet when requests for funding are presented. Requests can be sent to either the Town Clerk or the Executive Secretary.

There was no further discussion.

A vote was taken with a unanimous "yes" response.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda Flugrad, Town Clerk

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

DECEMBER 19TH, 2022 AT 6:00PM

Public Works Truck Lift	\$ 51,700
Recreational Facilities Upgrade	\$ 44,500
Salem Green Cemetery Upgrade	\$ 39,700
Salem Library/Friends Request	\$ 32,100
Town of Salem Security-Related Upgrades	\$ 33,500
TOTAL	\$ 201,500