

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC FORUM

Tuesday July 11, 2023

Town Hall

5:30 PM

ARPA FUNDS

Select Board members present: George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

Other Attendees: Gail Cromwell, Christine Robidoux, Danny Cournoyer, Kent Perry, Peter Allan, Lilliane Lebel, Connie Kieley & Vivian Wills

Ezell opened the Forum at 5:30.

Ezell noted this was an informal event to discuss potential uses for the remaining 39K of the COVID-19 ARPA funds received in 2021. Ezell added that we need to come up with an action plan for use of the funds by the end of 2024. Ezell read a list of the current potential projects (Updates to the recreation area, Curbing at the common, Library fence, Town well electrical work), and some newer suggestions (Lighting behind the town hall, more speed limit signs). Ezell noted there may be transportation grants that are being pursued, to cover these safety items.

Robidoux presented slides on eligible uses for the money, the 2021 town survey, money spent to date, and projects currently under consideration or approved. Robidoux highlighted that the majority of the money spent to date was for the Audio-Visual system placed at the town hall.

Cromwell noted the town has been smart to date on how these funds have been spent but feels that using the funds to finish the security systems at the town buildings, should be a priority adding that funding has been approved for this at town meeting but why not give taxpayers a break and use the ARPA funds. Caisse noted he is still trying to get comparable quotes on the cost for the system. Kieley noted Monadnock security said the system is outdated and once it goes we won't be able to get parts.

Cournoyer spoke representing the Recreation committee, noting they have been trying to get quotes for work at the tennis courts only receiving one so far which estimates it will take \$18K to resurface the tennis courts. He also noted there was additional damage to the fencing this winter.

Kieley noted that we should hire someone to create a plan to redesign the recreation space to make it a place people want to use.

Ezell noted our Insurance company said we have to install the Library fence and he mentioned that the new committee to fix the town scales was asking for ARPA money however he stated that they should work with the Historical society on that project.

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC FORUM

Peter Allen commented that he spoke with Katherine Heck from the NH municipal association which was helpful in determining what ARPA money was intended to be used for. Ezell noted he went to seminars on the topic and small towns have more flexibility than larger towns.

Ezell recapped as follows:

- Rec Dept. - Come up with a plan/ideas & estimates for the entire recreational space
- Lighting at the parking lot – CAC to find out if the lighting can be covered by the transportation grant.
- Curbing – Find out if this can be covered by the transportation grants. Robidoux thinks it might be eligible. Quote is \$5500. She will follow up on the lighting.
- Town well electrical – This is committed to be done, need quotes
- Library Fence – Insurance says we have to do this no matter where the money comes from. ARPA was discussed previously. Caisse noted we have two quotes and the Library needs to decide which type of fence they want.
- Repair the town Scales – Caisse noted they need to pick a path with the Historical society making the most sense. The board agreed this is not a priority for ARPA funds.
- Security System – Caisse noted the systems for fire and alarm are in place and work. The rest needs to be updated.

Vivian Wills noted they have been trying to chase down quotes for a while. She noted Peterborough used a major company and she was told it is hard to get action and that the price they received to work on their recreation area was astronomical. Wills noted that people contact her about there being no nets on the tennis courts which Wills stated is due to safety issues. Ezell said it would be beneficial to find out how many people use the space. Wills said it goes up and down and added that even if they come up with a plan, we need the patching done now. Ezell said safety items must be a priority. Resurfacing will probably need to be a warrant article. Robidoux noted this is turning out to be a much bigger project and asked Vivian if they wanted some help from other committees. Vivian will reach out.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion to adjourn by Ezell, second by Caisse. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.