

**FIRST SELECTWOMAN**  
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To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

RE: March 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen Meeting

The following are comments on agenda items in advance of our Board of Selectman meeting

**D-1 Estimated Town of Wilton American Rescue Plan Grant**

The Town of Wilton is expected to receive a grant of \$5.3 million paid in two installments with the first installment received in mid-June 2021 and the second in June 2022. Details as to eligible expenses will be provided by the time of the receipt of the funds. In the meantime, according to CCM, the following are acceptable uses:

1. *(A) To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;*
2. *(B) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of local government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;*
3. *(C) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such local government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; or*
4. *(D) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.*

*Local governments cannot use funds for deposit into any pension fund. In addition, cannot be used for directly or indirectly offsetting a tax cut.*

We will need the additional details to determine all of the FY2022 budgeted expenses that will be covered by the grant, but based on the bill language provided, at a minimum we expect the \$100,000 for broadband/cell service consultants, the \$15,000 for economic development initiatives and the \$10,000 for an economic development part-time employee will be covered.

**D-2 Recommendation to Reduce BOS Requested Budget.**

I will be recommending we reduce our requested budget as follows:

- Reduce Reserve by \$130,000, as the WLA has acknowledged and confirmed the credit to their FY2022 grant for the excess FY2021 grant.
- Reduce Reserve for \$203,000 for expected savings due to new information.
- Reduce 125,000 of budgeted expenditures noted above which will be covered by the American Rescue Plan grant.

#### **D-4 Proposal for Domed Sports Facility**

The following is background for this agenda item.

Prior to the approval of the \$10 million renovation of Comstock, the voters had authorized funding for consideration of an expanded community/recreation center. The Committee tasked had been developing a proposal for a \$27 million center, when the project was scaled back in mid-2008 in response to the recession.

Excluded from the \$10 million renovation was the expansion of the existing gym to create a much-needed full-sized gym. Residents expressed frustration that the gym was excluded and the question was raised by a Board of Finance member when the project was reviewed by that board. The BOS thinking at the time was that a project cost of more than \$10 million would not be approved by the voters, so the full-size gym was excluded.

In 2015, a residents lead initiative for a donor paid third turf field at Middlebrook resulted in P&Z approval for the field, but a denial of the requested lighting.

In 2016/2017, subcommittees of the Parks and Recreation Commission focused separately on the need for additional turf fields and the location for one or more additional turf fields. The committees found there was demonstrated need for up to two turf fields.

Since then discussions have been held about the difficulty Wilton sports groups have in securing indoor field time. Discussions were held about an off-season bubble on a new turf field or an existing turf field.

Most recently, there has been the proposal which you will hear about at our meeting. The proposal incorporates what was needed, but left out of the Comstock project, provides a third turf field indoors.