

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

Date: May 16, 2022

RE: ARPA and Infrastructure Requests

Attached is a spreadsheet with the ARPA and Infrastructure requests. Highlighted in green are recommendations related to previously designated priorities, the emergency communications system and WHS field mitigation. The following are comments in advance of the meeting:

- ***Emergency Communication System:*** The recommendation for the system, net of the federal grant, is \$3,097,000 plus a potential contingency drawdown of up to \$240,000. The request is based on the requirements of the State's emergency communication system, under the terms of the State's contract and priced as of February 25, 2022 with a guarantee until May 25, 2022.
You may remember in September 2021, we received an estimate with a price range of \$3,675,091 to \$4,224,354. The low range was expected needs at the September pricing. The high range was Motorola's recommended budget to account for what wasn't known in September.
The difference between the estimated price and the final price is additional required equipment and price increases.
Tom Conlan will be at our meeting to discuss further. We are hoping to lock in the February 25th pricing. As such we may need second meeting early next week to continue discussions.
- ***WHS Drainage and Mitigation:*** We submitted an application to Congressman Himes for a Congressional Directed Spending Grant for the cost of Option 3 plus maintenance. Although we won't know if the grant will move forward or ultimately be awarded, we are encouraged by the positive response our application received. As we await a decision, we think it is necessary to do some mitigation in advance of the summer storms. As such we recommend the Town move forward with the recommended berm work estimated at \$173,800 and maintenance work estimated at \$292,875. The recommended drainage work would be completed with the grant funding if approved. If not approved, we would need to recommend alternative funding.
- ***Municipal Buildings:*** Chris Burney will be at our meeting to discuss. Regarding Ambler, we will want to have a more in-depth discussion about Ambler Farm's Yellow House with representatives of Friends of Ambler Farm present. We hope to hold that discussion in June. You will note we intend to submit grant applications to the State's Neighborhood Assistance Program for window replacements at Ambler Farm's Yellow House and Town Hall. Under the program, businesses that donate to approved applications for energy conservation, for which both of these qualify, receive state tax credits equal to 100% of their donations. This will be discussed further at our meeting.

- ***Hold backs:*** Approximately \$269,000 of turf and track cleanup costs related to Tropical Storm Ida are awaiting approval and reimbursement from FEMA. Until those funds are received, I recommend we hold back an equivalent amount in the Infrastructure Fund. The recent power surge, which resulted in damage to the Cider Mill and Middlebrook electrical systems, is expected to result in costs of at least \$300,000, half of which is expected to be incurred during this fiscal year. A claim has been filed with the insurance carrier and Eversource. Since a determination hasn't been made as to if and how much will be reimbursed and because the BOE does not expect to be able to fund the current year's incurred costs through their budget, I recommend we hold back an equivalent amount in the Infrastructure Fund until we have more information about reimbursements.
- ***Potential Grants Impact Disbursements:*** We are working on an October submission for the State's Community Challenge Grant. The submission would be for a \$1 million grant to partially fund the Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Plan. The Town would be required to provide a \$500,000 match. Approximately \$685,000 of requests, as indicated, qualify as matched spending.