December 15, 2022

To: Town of Plainfield Selectboard

From: ARPA Committee (Arion Thiboumery, George Cushing, Jane Bradley)

Re: Recommendations to Selectboard for ARPA funds

It is with pleasure that we submit our committee’s recommendation for disposition of ARPA funds. As a committee we’ve met regularly since September. The following is a summary of our process:

* Met with Selectboard
* Identified criteria for evaluation
* Solicited proposals
* Evaluated/Discussed proposals
* Gathered community feedback
* Make recommendation to Selectboard

To inform the community of the opportunity to submit proposals we put multiple postings on Front Porch Forum as well as word-of-mouth discussions with neighbors and interested townspeople. A summary of proposals and recommendations is in the addendum to this memo.

The criteria we included in our call for proposals include:

* Addresses need of larger community for long term benefit
* Consideration of other/future funding needs and opportunities
* Improvement of public safety and well being

The committee reviewed proposals and solicited additional feedback where necessary from the requestors. We received feedback from the community on whether to spend the entire amount now or hold some in reserve for future needs. There was no general community consensus on this point. Many people expressed concern about the future costs associated with Route 2 intersection and replacement/repair of Brook Road bridges. Additionally, we heard from several community members that the town ensures safe and accessible access in Route 2 intersection work. The committee feels it is wise to reserve a portion of the available money. We used the following rationale in making our recommendations:

* Clean water and wastewater management is essential to the well-being of our town. We need to have the ability to expand water/waste water in order to increase housing and business which will have a positive impact on our ability to increase housing, which should help us keep taxes down.
* There is additional money in the pipeline for water/waste water repair. The engineering study for school street will position us to be “shovel ready” when funds are released.
* The use of the rec field increased significantly since the pandemic. It was a great outdoor venue when we could not meet inside, it’s a popular place for families and supports health and well-being of our community.
* The development of a non-profit community trust will enable us to raise money outside of taxes to support the needs of our community and businesses.
* Originally, we did not recommend funding for the library roof repair. Based on the community feedback received at our public meeting, we changed our recommendation to provide half of the funding requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this process. While it is ultimately the decision of the selectboard to approve and allocate the ARPA funds it is our sincere hope that you will consider letting us reconvene after Town Meeting Day to revisit old and new requests. We are happy to meet with you to answer any additional questions you have.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Amount** | **Notes** |  |  |
| ARPA Funds Received | $367,000.00  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| CV Fiber | $30,000.00  | Committed by Selectboard |  |  |
| Brook Rd Bridge | $173,000.00  | Committed by Selectboard |  |  |
| **Balance** | **$164,000.00**  |   |   |  |
| **Proposals received and reviewed by ARPA Committee** |
| **Requestor** | **Amount** | **Notes** | **Contact** | **Recommend Funding** |
| Recreation Committee | $1,000.00  | Water fountain/spigot | Jamie Spector |  |
|  | $5,000.00  | Composting toilet |  |  |
|  | $45,637.50  | Climbing dome |  |  |
| **Sub total** | **$51,637.50**  |  |  | **$22,819.00** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Plainfield Water & Waste | $15,000.00  | Purchase land | Mary Lane |  |
|  | $2,500.00  | Attorney fees |  |  |
|  | $12,000.00  | Survey fees |  |  |
|  | $20,000.00  | Engineering study School Street |  |  |
| **Sub total** | **$49,500.00**  |  |  | **$40,500.00** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cutler Memorial  | $25,000.00  | Roof & chimney repair |  | **$12,500.00** |
|  | $2,000.00  | Lead encapsulation |  | **$2,000.00** |
|  | $3,300.00  | Oil tank replacement |  |  |
| **Sub total** | **$30,300.00**  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Plainfield Coop | $30,000.00  | Offset Covid & bridge losses | John Cleary |  |
|  | $2,500.00  | HEPA Air Purifier |  | **$2,500.00** |
|  | $10,500.00  | Affordable food (discounts) |  |  |
| **Sub total** | **$43,000.00**  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Friends of Opera House | $6,144.00  | Projector | Keith Swan |  |
|  | $10,045.00  | Videostreaming Equipment |  |  |
|  | $3,057.00  | Audio Equipment |  |  |
| **Sub total** | **$19,246.00**  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Plainfield Opera House | $14,000.00  | Back up generator | Michael B |  |
| **Sub total** | **$14,000.00**  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Community Trust** | $600.00  | IRS fees |  | **$5,750.00** |
|  | $150.00  | VT fees  | Bob Francher |  |
|  | $5,000.00  | Attorney fees |  |  |
| Sub total | **$5,750.00**  |  |  |  |
| **Total Request** | **$183,133.50** | **Total Recommendation** |  | **$86,069.00** |
|  |  | Balance ARPA Funds |  | **$77,931.00** |