

Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
January 24, 2022 - 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Orlando Calfe, Mickey Goldwasser, Glenn Heiser, Donna Osuch, Susan Sadecki, Howard Schmelder, David Maikowski, David Preleski, and Eric Clemons. Cindy Bombard and John Smith via Zoom.

Absent: Michael Dumas and Thomas O'Brien

Also present: Diane Waldron, Robin Manuele, Raymond Rogozinski, Justin Malley, Dawn Leger and Dawn Nielsen

1. Call to Order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Approval of minutes from the January 10, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Calfe made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith "To approve the minutes from the January 10, 2022 meeting." Motion approved.

4. Discussion with UHY Advisors N.E. LLC.

Discussion was held with Jack, from UHY regarding the project submissions. The portal will remain open until January 31 at 11:59 p.m., where submissions will still be accepted after the deadline. Jack explained the portal will still be available but we will not be adjudicating them. Jack is seeing a lot more higher dollar asks here than in other municipalities. Mayor Caggiano stated the City is looking for transformational projects, may not be something you can limit as much as other communities. Other cities may be looking to give a broad base of revenues, instead of transformational, and the projects being submitted are showing that. If the project comes to the Task Force, after UHY review, it is allowable under the guidelines, the guidance is very broad.

5. Discussion of application status and review of tracking spreadsheet.

The Task Force reviewed and discussed the spreadsheet sent by UHY. The allowable total is close to \$15 million, adding \$9 million over the weekend. The Task Force needs to start thinking about the process, and the percentage to each group. Subcommittees will need to start meeting to discuss the projects. Jack explained a lot of places across the country started with defined percentages. For capital expenditures, there is a new requirement to compare it to two other projects.

Commissioner Heiser questioned how the \$10 million in revenue loss factored into this. The projects can come out of those funds, but do not have to be reported up to Treasury.

Jack encourages the \$10 million be approved revenue loss allowance be used, and kept in mind during the approval process. The guidance is final, however he does expected FAQ's be issued on the final guidance.

6. Subcommittee Updates

Mayor Caggiano reviewed a timeline, as submissions are due January 31, the next meeting is scheduled for February 7 in which a spreadsheet will be distributed. He suggests the subcommittees meet, review and discuss projects, and have their rubrics in place. After that, in the following three weeks subcommittees should continue to meet and by the February 28 Task Force meeting reconvene to discuss approval of projects that are transformational. The March 14 Task Force meeting should be a tougher discussion and decisions may need to be made, which applicants may need to come in.

7. Any other business

Dawn Neilsen is going to send a reminder email to those people who went into the portal but didn't finalize their submission.

Commissioner Bombard stated the Chamber will be submitting a large application tomorrow, and as a member of the Task Force is there a conflict of interest. The Mayor will check with legal counsel again tomorrow for clarification on conflict of interest of the members.

Commissioner Preleski questioned how the BOE is using their funds. Commissioner Goldwasser expressed concerns over double dipping as some projects may be for the City and BOE, there needs to be some set parameters. The Mayor will obtain the list from the Superintendent before allocating funds.

Commissioner Goldwasser stated he wants to keep the public informed on how the funds are being allocated and show how the projects are transformational. Mayor Caggiano stated only \$1,900 of the \$5,000 in advertising was spent to day, those funds can be used to publish how funds are being allocated towards the projects. Also, the 15 members of the Task Force are pillars of the community and could also spread the information.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion seconded by Commissioner Maikowski "to adjourn" at 5:00 pm. Motion approved.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary