

Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
February 28, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Cindy Bombard, Orlando Calfe, Donna Osuch, Susan Sadecki, Howard Schmelder, David Maikowski, David Preleski, Michael Dumas, Thomas O'Brien, John Smith and Mark Peterson. Glenn Heiser and Mickey Goldwasser (via Zoom).

Absent: Eric Clemons

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

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 February 7, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion seconded by Commissioner Calfe "To approve the minutes from the February 7, 2022 meeting." Motion approved.

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

The Task Force discussed the spreadsheet as presented by UHY. Each subcommittee is working through their list of projects. Mayor Caggiano stated the City spreadsheet may be missing some projects, however it may just be the projects the subcommittee has already coded red are hidden.

Donna Osuch stated a few nonprofit entities were submitted on behalf of City properties, such as West Cemetery Projects 284 & 302. Projects 286 & 294 were submitted by businesses and are storm drainage or erosion projects and should also be considered City projects.

Mayor Caggiano stated the total of everything coded green by the subcommittees at this time is around \$29 million, however the subcommittees are not done yet, and partial funding of projects is being looked at. The Workforce Development project has been reviewed by the business committee and is coded green, however the full Task Force may want to discuss this project.

5. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Share priority projects
- b. Discuss outstanding questions on projects

Donna Osuch gave the update from the non-profit subcommittee. She stated there were 40 projects totaling \$25 million. There were some small projects, and many of the projects are not recommended for full funding. The projects recommended for funding are in green and totals \$7.02

million for 22 projects. Highlighting two priority projects would be the accessible trail at the Environmental Learning Center and the St. Vincent DePaul shelter. Both projects met the eligibility criteria. The other smaller requests focused on COVID related items.

Dave Preleski gave the update for the business subcommittee. Their committee looked at rate of return for one time opportunities, creating jobs within the community and business expansion. The various components of the applications were reviewed for partial funding. The biggest project was the jobs program through the Chamber of Commerce, which everyone on the Committee supported. Cindy stated there are a few businesses which the subcommittee is requesting additional information. Glenn stated the Committee is looking for more transparency on the use of funds.

For the City subcommittee, John stated there are four projects that are green the Task Force has already approved. Mayor Caggiano stated their discussion focused on projects being transformational and shovel ready.

For the next meeting the Mayor would like to have the projects noted in green established, all questions answered for all projects that are in yellow so as to be ready to discuss and approve projects at that time. Cindy would like to see one more round of clean up before approving any projects. Mickey questioned the start date of these projects, which the subcommittee could go back and ask the applicants. Donna stated UHY has been very helpful in reaching out to the organizations to gather more information as well as verify if they don't receive full funding from the Task Force, will they be able to proceed with their project.

6. Review of potential projects to move to allocation and calibrate vs. other subcommittees.

Mayor Caggiano reviewed the current green projects from the subcommittees which is around \$8 million for the businesses, \$7 million for nonprofit, and \$14 million for the City which totals around \$29 million. Susan questioned only approving \$24 million to save some funds for a second round of applications. The Mayor stated he would like to save funds that could be used for matching funds for some of the infrastructure funding due to come from the federal government.

Discussion was held on a suggestion to have the entire Task Force look at the work of the individual subcommittees so as to look at the big picture. Susan feels this would be going backwards and Mayor Caggiano stated there has to be a level of trust in the subcommittees. He is impressed with the work being done at the subcommittee level after sitting in on some of the meetings. Susan also stated her concern for any nonprofit that receives partial funding if they will have the resources to fulfill the gap and that if they don't they may not accept the funding. .

Discussion was held on what the process is after a project is approved by the Task Force. Orlando questioned what the process will be for telling businesses. Diane stated grant contracts with the organization will be needed, as well as Board of Finance and City Council approval to allocate the funds. Justin stated a contract similar to what CDBG uses for grant contracts can be used and there will be caveats. UHY will need to ensure the contracts meet federal guidelines. Howard questioned if there is a bidding process sub recipients must follow for the procurement of any services related to their project. Jose stated the City's procurement policy would dictate the process as well as the City's internal controls and segregation of duties. Diane stated in May the other half of federal funds will be received for the direct and county allocation which comes from the State. Jose stated it's an

evolving process, new guidance was just received today for reporting. Diane will try to gather more information on the state requirements for the next meeting.

Mayor Caggiano stated \$24 million will be the first allocation and subcommittees are to come back for the next meeting with their final lists, resolving any yellow or questions outstanding.

7. Consider projects to approve funding through full board.

Mayor Caggiano stated at this time the consensus is the Task Force isn't ready to approve any projects.

8. Any other business

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commission Bombard "to adjourn" at 5:13 p.m.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary

DRAFT