

Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
July 11, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall West Meeting Room 1, 111 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Cindy Bombard, David Preleski, Susan Sadecki, Glenn Heiser, Thomas O'Brien, and John Smith

Zoom: Howard Schmelder, David Maikowski

Absent: Michael Dumas, Mickey Goldwasser, Mark Peterson

Also present: Justin Malley, Roger Rousseau, Raymond Rogozinski, Diane Waldron,
Via Zoom: Dawn Leger, Jose Roman, Keegan French, and Jack Reagan, from UHY

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Participation

None

3. Approval of minutes: June 20, 2022

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Bombard "to approve the minutes from June 20, 2022." Motion approved.

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

Jack explained 17 contracts are ready to go but there is one question in to Roger on the contract. Several of the approved projects have not had a meeting scheduled yet. A quarterly report is due at the end of this month and UHY is assisting staff with this report.

Jack explained Firefly Brewing has a change in their request, Susan feels the request should be reviewed again. Glenn stated the subcommittees are set up for initial review for the audit trail, as suggested that as small as the change may be it should still be reviewed by the subcommittee.

Cindy stated she has heard from applicants they are waiting to hear back from UHY. UHY sent a status list to the Mayor today and will share it with the entire Task Force after the meeting.

5. Any other Business

Justin Malley stated the Business Subcommittee should meet with Movia and Firefly to discuss any changes.

John Smith stated the asbestos testing results from the Barnes Chapel came in and it is free of asbestos. John requested the Barnes Chapel application be sent to the City subcommittee for review from UHY.

Justin and Mayor Caggiano have spoken to Bristol Health, Kurt Barwis stated they have a special request. The generators need to be replaced, the original cost was estimated at \$3.2 with \$2.8 million approved in a state grant. New regulations are now in place, and cost increases bring the estimate to now over \$5 million. For the hospital to come up with an additional \$2 million is almost impossible and is requesting that anything the Task Force can assist with would be appreciated. There are some components that may be able to be leased, but a gap of funding exists of almost \$1 million. The generators were not submitted in the initial Bristol Health request in January, as the cost estimates at the time were not as high. The generators support the community and are critical when residents have no power due to storm outages. John Smith stated this is a critical need to the hospital.

Commissioner Schmelder stated this is a whole new project, even though this is an emergency, what happens to the other projects. Mayor Caggiano stated this will need to be brought forth before the proper subcommittee.

Justin stated the Building Bristol grant program has not been advertised yet. Susan questioned if these projects will come back through the subcommittees, to which Justin stated they will come through ECD and then he will report to the Task Force. Mayor Caggiano stated that by early this fall the Task Force should have an idea of how much of these funds will be used.

Kasey Harding, Community Health Center, discussed the CHC Hopes program which would provide healthcare opportunities for the homeless allowing healthcare providers to prescribe housing. She explained COVID showed them that the pathways for vulnerable populations was just not there. Susan questioned if they are working with other existing homeless resources within the community. The proposal is for \$240,000. Discussion was held on the project.

Commissioner O'Brien and Schmedler expressed their concerns over this being a new proposal and being presented after the submission deadline. Commissioner Sadecki suggested collaborating with St. Vincent DePaul as they are receiving ARPA funding. Mayor Caggiano stated they may be eligible for the Community Investment Fund through State of Connecticut Economic Development Funds as well.

Ray Rogozinski discussed the Shrub Road project. While this project has LOTCIP funding in the future the neighbors would like to see it done sooner. The sidewalks are proposed on the north side of Shrub Road. The purpose of the sidewalks is to address residents' concerns with pedestrian safety on Shrub Road. In addition, the sidewalks will provide an interconnection with Seymour Park, the Environmental Learning Center, recently acquired open space and Stevens Street. The cost of the sidewalk construction is \$1,200,000.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Bombard made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sadecki "to adjourn" at 5:07 p.m.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary

DRAFT