

BILLERICA SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2022 @ 7PM
THOMAS CONWAY HEARING ROOM, 205

In attendance: Chairman Dan Burns, Vice Chairman Andrew Deslaurier, Secretary Mike Rosa, Selectman John Burrows, Selectwoman Kim Conway (remote), Town Manager John Curran, Asst Town Manager Clancy Main

Open Microphone

Mike Reilly commenting that he would like to see all First Responders in the Town of Billerica received ARPA money.

Item #1 Executive Secretary Subcommittee. Selectman Rosa reported on the activities of the subcommittee. Selectman Rosa and Selectwoman Conway took in 12 resumes and narrowed it down to 3 candidates and then narrowed it down to 1 person – Dawn McDowell. Selectwoman Conway added Dawn is a very good candidate.

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board appoint Dawn McDowell as Executive Confidential Secretary to Select Board. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Item #3 ARPA FUND. Town Manager Curran speaking about the items in the fund. He recommends the Select Board do something to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the towns employees and first responders. He met with the unions and they would like a higher number Mr. Curran is suggesting.

Town Manager Curran went on at great lengths praising police, fire, dispatchers, paramedics, health service workers in their heroic efforts during COVID. He recommends \$750.00 and \$1,250.00 to paramedics and board of health.

Selectman Rosa thanks everyone involved in keeping residents safe during COVID and makes a motion to give a larger amount \$1,000.00 and \$1,500.00.

Vice Chair Deslaurier thinks more money should be paid. He is thinking \$2,500.00 would be more in line of compensation. Selectman Burrows says our first responders are unbelievable. He doesn't think the Board of Health should get more than our first responders. He thinks they should be receiving the higher amount. Police and firefighters went to work regardless of the situations.

Secretary Rosa amended his motion to pay Billerica Police, Fire, EMT's, First Responders, and Health workers \$2,500.00 each. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows says we had other town employees who helped out during the testing including Kerri Rufo, Joanne White, and others are included in the group. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE,

Roll call vote (4-0-1 abstention Selectwoman Conway)

At 7:22PM Selectwoman Conway rejoined the meeting.

ARPA Projects for discussion

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Howe School | \$500,000. |
| Down Payment Assistance | \$300,000. |
| Affordable Housing Visioning Plan | \$300,000. |
| Premium Pay | TBD |
| Auditorium | \$400,000. |
| Vaccine and Testing Clinics | \$100,000. |
| Boston Rd Non-Qualifying Expenses | \$1,200,000. |
| HVAC Town Hall | \$1,600,000. |
| HVAC Library | \$1,800,000. |
| Public Safety Communications | \$1,700,000. |
| Town Wide Marketing Plan | \$50,000.00 |
| HVAC HEPPA Filtration | \$500,000.00 |
| Town Playgrounds/ETC | \$125,000.00 |
| Non Sewer Total | \$8,575,000.00 |
| | |
| Left Over Towards Sewer | \$4,387,698.00 |
| TOTAL ARPA FUNDS SPENT | \$12,962.698.00 |

Selectwoman Conway and Rosa aren't sure \$300,000. Is enough for down payment assistance. They both feel more money should be allotted. Selectman Rosa says the Select Board should be putting more money into housing trust to go with CPC money to have more purchasing power. He wants \$500,000. To expand Housing Authority to purchase more property.

Selectman Burrows wants to talk about asking larger projects in town to contribute to a fund for affordable housing down payment money. He also comments the town has money from marijuana that is coming into the town for new revenue.

Chairman Burns agrees there needs to be a plan to replenish housing assistance. Chairman Burns wanted to make clear this is available to Billerica residents only. Mr. Curran concurred. Chairman Burns says a lot of good will be done with these funds. He asks how do we increase the money necessary for affordable housing. He'd like to know if \$500,000.00 can be taken out tonight or not. Mr. Curran comments the money is being drawn down....it might not be a good option to do it tonight. Chairman Burns wants something allocated to the housing soon.

Selectwoman Conway asks how do we take money and put it toward other things and when you get to the bottom of the list – there is no money left. She had asked for street repair. Street repair is not on this list. She doesn't understand how that could happen? How do we get everything done that is necessary. Where is her opportunity to speak on things that are not on here but need to be? Chairman Burns says to bring it up for discussion. Robbing Peter to pay Paul scenario. Mr. Curran asks if Selectwoman Conway is looking for money to fix potholes or the roads? Selectwoman Conway says she put in a request 2 million dollars for a vehicle that goes along and fixes potholes. Selectwoman Conway says the roads in Billerica are unacceptable. More needs to be done. She wants another \$500,000.00 for roads.

Selectwoman Conway wants to know if she needs to make a motion for \$500,000.00 for road work.

Selectman Rosa has a question about the list presented and can you talk about things that weren't listed or is it a violation of the open meeting law? Selectman Rosa asks if the sewer (force main) amount is for repair? Mr. Curran says yes. Selectman Rosa says this is not any upcoming sewer work.

Selectman Burrows comments the DPW would like an asphalt spreader. Selectman Burrows comments that he has been looking into DOME'S for rental options for sporting events, etc. He thinks this should be looked into for revenue.

Chairman Burns says we can't cure all the problems in 1 sitting. Chairman Burns says we need a vision plan to drive the most urgent needs.

Selectman Burrows says only Billerica residents should get the affordable housing. Selectman Rosa thinks Billerica has a pretty complete plan for housing. What if we put \$600,000.00 into 1 bucket? After we pay for the plan there should be money left over.

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board puts \$600,000.00 into the housing trust with the idea of a down payment assistance program from \$300,000.00 (but not to exceed \$300,000.00) and some amount to augment the affordable housing trust plan to be determined and the remainder to be used as the housing trust sees fit to promulgate affordable housing in Billerica. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Selectwoman Conway makes a motion to allocate not to exceed \$500,000.00 the DPW to purchase whatever tools they need to fix potholes and repair roads in town. Mr. Curran asks if they choose not to purchase a spreader can they use the money where they choose? Selectwoman Conway says no, they can come back to the board. Chairman Burns says the money will stay with the department to buy an spreader. If this doesn't happen, she wants DPW to come back to the board before they use the money. Selectwoman Conway wants to vote now the \$500,000.00 and go from there.

Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Auditorium repairs – Mr. Curran comments this room gets a lot of use. Secretary Rosa makes a motion To approve \$400,000.00 from the ARPA FUNDS to repair auditorium as presented. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Vaccine and testing Clinics – Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve \$100,000.00 from the ARPA FUNDS for vaccine and testing clinics. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman

Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Boston Rd non qualifying expenses – Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve \$1,200,000.00 from the ARPA FUNDS for Boston Rd non qualifying expenses. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

HVAC Town Hall and HVAC Library –

Selectman Rosa says filters are not cost effective compared to other filters out there. He wants all departments treated equally. He specifically spoke about clean room areas in the Billerica Fire Stations and saying some ARPA money should be spent to update those stations to clean fire gear. He says the new Pinehurst Fire Station is state of the art and the rest of the stations should be brought up to today's standards.

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve \$1,600,000.00 at Billerica town hall from the ARPA FUNDS for repair work. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve \$1,800,000.00 at Billerica Public Library from ARAP FUNDS for repair work. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Secretary Rosa makes a motion that the Select Board approve \$500,000.00 for HVAC heppa filtration for town buildings. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier.

Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Public Safety Communications – Mr. Curran says this is for police, fire, DPW and ability for multiple departments to talk to one another. Secretary Rosa makes a motion to approve \$1,700,000.00 from ARPA FUNDS for Public Safety Communications. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier.

Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Town Wide Marketing Plan – Mr. Curran says this is an opportunity to showcase the town. Secretary Rosa makes a motion to approve \$50,000.00 from ARPA FUNDS for Town Wide Marketing Plan. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier.

Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Town Playgrounds/ETC – This is for town playgrounds. Secretary Rosa makes a motion to approve \$125,000.00 from ARPA FUNDS for town playgrounds. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier.

Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Selectman Burrows wants to make a motion to put a dome and turf field at Vining School. Chairman Burns says that is not a job for the board now. Selectman Burrows says the Select Board is in charge. You are passing the buck. Secretary Rosa says we are responsible for town playgrounds. He goes on to say the town took over school fields and the school dept should take care of their own playgrounds. They have been neglected and its not up to the town to repair school playgrounds.

Chairman Burns thinks CPA should do the domes.

Secretary Rosa doesn't want to vote balance of left-over money tonight. He wants information about the possibility of domes and a spreader for fixing potholes.

The board wants the Town Manager to look into the cost of a dome(s) put over PHR fields. 3.1 million is left on the table.

Preliminary Warrant Review Discussion and Vote – Mr. Curran says this is what possibly might be going on the warrant. He listed the possible warrants.

Secretary Rosa says we need to establish what is going on the warrant tonight. The Select Board will instruct the Town Manager to draft 1 article to define the Bay Circuit Trail. Article 2 change the zoning map for Concord Rd in front of Cabot property. Article 3 transfer of school fields to town control.

Selectwoman Conway asks about #22, she wants clarity. Mr. Curran says it would be paid 100% by betterment proponents. She questions #34 zoning bylaw. Why are we rezoning? Mr. Curran says there's a potential project – the residential piece needs to be rezoned industrial.

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve the warrant as presented with the exception of what is called #20 that will be removed and adding a warrant article for the Bay Circuit Trail and transfer of school fields to town and changing what is called article 34 to be a change to zoning on Concord Rd (Cabot Corp).

Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier.

Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Secretary Rosa makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier.
Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE,
Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

MEETING SCHEDULE

March 24, 2022

Approved On: June 6, 2022