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TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Selectboard Special Meeting via Zoom
Order of Agenda for Monday, November 1, 2021, at 6:00 PM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83571709502?pwd=am95ZTF6bWFyWWhYS0kwNTN4RXRVdz09>

Webinar ID: 835 7170 9502

Passcode: 669988

Dial-in, audio-only: (929) 205 6099

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's June 16, 2021 Revised Order extending remote participation by all members in any meeting of a public body, this meeting of the Great Barrington Selectboard will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on town's website, at www.townofgb.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: See instructions at the top of the agenda. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

*****ALL VOTES ARE ROLL CALL*****

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS
3. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
 - a. Public Input Session
4. CITIZEN SPEAK
5. MEDIA TIME
6. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING

November 8, 2021

November 22, 2021

December 13, 2021

Mark Pruhenski, Town Manager

Pursuant to MGL. 7c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA

Mark Pruhenski, Town Manager
Chris Rembold, Asst. Town Manager
Susan Carmel, Finance Director

Program Overview

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) was signed into law on March 11, 2021
- This law provides \$1.9 trillion for continued COVID-19 response and recovery, including \$350 billion for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Approximately \$113 billion is to go to Massachusetts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Funding has been given to three groups: businesses and individuals, public entities, and Commonwealth agencies

Program Overview (cont'd)

- Four types of recipients:
 1. Metropolitan cities and counties with populations over 250,000
 2. Metropolitan cities and counties with populations under 250,000 and received funding of more than \$5 million
 3. Metropolitan cities and counties with populations under 250,000 and received funding of less than \$5 million
 4. Non-entitlement units of government**

** Great Barrington is considered a non-entitlement unit of government

Distribution of Funds

- Total funds to be allocated to Great Barrington: \$2,075,908
 - \$ 726,923 Local Allocation
 - \$1,348,985 County Reallocation
- Local Allocation will be distributed in two payments:
 - 50% in FY2022 (already received \$363,462 on 7/20/21)
 - 50% approximately 12 months after receipt of first payment
- County Reallocation – received \$674,492.41 on 8/17/21

Eligible Uses – Five Core Areas

- Public Health Funding
- Economic Impacts of the Public Health Emergency
- Lost Public Sector Revenue
- Premium Pay for Essential Workers
- Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure

Public Health Funding

Includes COVID-19:

- Mitigation efforts including vaccination, testing, tracing, PPE, etc.
- Medical expenses
- Behavioral health
- Certain public health and safety expenses including payroll costs

Economic Impacts of the Public Health Emergency

Includes efforts to mitigate economic harm to the following:

- Households (e.g., assistance for food, rent, mortgage)
- Workers (e.g., training, unemployment benefits)
- Small businesses (e.g. economic assistance)
- Affected industries (e.g. tourism and hospitality sectors)
- Public sector (e.g. rehiring staff)

****The Town will be required to justify that the project responds to the economic impact of the public health emergency**

Lost Public Sector Revenue

- Can be used to fund government services to the extent of revenue reductions from the pandemic
- “general revenues” – still questions regarding the definition; however DOR has issued preliminary guidance
- Includes the loss of revenues from taxes, current charge and miscellaneous general revenue
- Excludes: refunds, proceeds from issuance of debt or sale of investments, and revenue generated by utilities
- Calculation of lost revenue is very complex – requires taking four different points in time, identifying actuals, estimating counterfactual revenue, etc.

Premium Pay for Essential Workers

- Funds may be used for additional support for those faced with the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors

Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure

- Water and Sewer eligible uses are those aligned with drinking water, stormwater and sewer Revolving Loan Fund programs including:
 - Building or upgrading facilities, transmission, distribution, and storage systems
 - Wastewater collecting and treatment
 - Conservation and pollution prevention
- Broadband eligible uses are those that deliver high speed future ready service to “unserved or underserved” populations
 - Defined as those without access to a minimum 25 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload speed

Reporting Requirements

- Annual reporting of projects and expenditures
- First report due on April 30, 2022
 - Will cover reporting period from award date to 3/31/2022
- Annually every year thereafter on April 30th
- Final report in March 2027
- Must include the following:
 - Expenditure details
 - Program statistics
 - Performance metrics
 - Civil Rights Act compliance details

Next Steps

- Engage community for public input
- Create staff review committee to establish policies, procedures, application process for applying for ARPA projects
- Funds must be obligated by 12/31/2024
- Projects must be completed by 12/31/2026