

**Sharon Selectboard
SPECIAL Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022 FINAL**

This meeting was held in compliance with the January 2022 VT Open Meeting law amendments regarding fully-remote electronic meetings.

Attending In-Person from Sharon Town Offices: Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant; Nicola Shipman, Selectboard Assistant/Meeting Host; Attending remotely via Zoom: Mary Gavin, Selectboard; Kevin Gish, Selectboard; Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Cathy Sartor, Town Clerk; Margaret Raymond, Treasurer; Participants include: Nic Antal; Carole Langstaff; Margaret Gilmore, Seven Stars Board Member; Sarah Pfeiffer; Will Davis; David Karon; Helen Barrett; Elaine Kearns; Jim Rooney; Emma Basham; Attending via Phone: Joe Ronan, Selectboard Chair

Call to Order: Chair Joe Ronan convened the meeting at 6:03 PM

1. Overview of ARPA Funding and Eligibility Criteria:

Kevin Gish presented information on the funding and eligibility criteria for the American Rescue Plan Act. Sharon's total funding all told is \$457,356.82. Currently the town has \$228,678.41 on hand. The funds must be appropriated by December 31, 2024, and the must be expended by December 31, 2026. The Selectboard is the legal entity with the authority to appropriate and expend the ARPA funding.

Kevin Gish identified the eligible and ineligible uses for the funds, and he noted that the Selectboard is actively seeking community input for how best to expend these funds for the benefit the most people over the longest period.

Nicole Antal asked if there will be other opportunities for public participation and to generate ideas. Mary Gavin responded that there will be several opportunities for public input and the Selectboard continues to refine the process for public participation.

2. Selectboard Listening Session: Public Suggestions for ARPA Funding Priorities:

Public suggestions for ARPA Funding priorities included:

- financial assistants for non-profits in town affected by pandemic-related losses, including Seven Stars, Baxter Library and the PTO
- improved and safer access to (and signage for) the White River; outdoor message board/town crier; expansion of the library
- financial assistance for renters
- bonuses for school staff, town crew and/or town office workers
- financial support for the arts; afterschool programming
- purchase of musical instruments for Sharon Elementary
- enhanced mental health support/counseling access for town and broader community
- mental health training for the newly hired care coordinator

- improvements to the school playground (particularly more swings)
- installation of a pump track for the town
- funding to improve broadband access especially for residents who are unable to afford installation costs
- rehabilitation of commercial properties/storefronts
- meeting place for teens/students
- increased access to the food shelf
- installation of a “pavilion”/covered outdoor meeting area.

The listening session concluded at 6:55PM

3. Executive Session:

Kevin Gish made a motion to enter Executive session at 7:03PM to discuss a personnel matter. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Gavin made a motion to exit Executive session at 7:15pm. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Reconvene Open Meeting:

No action was taken

5. Adjourn:

Kevin Gish made a motion to adjourn at 7:16PM. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Nicola Shipman