

Town of Livermore Falls
Office of the Board of Selectmen

Jeff Bryant - Chair
Ernie Souther – Vice Chair
William Kenniston

Rodney Heikkinen
Jim Long

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 28, 2022
Livermore Falls Town Office
6:30 pm

ATTENDEES: Jeff Bryant; Chair; Ernie Souther, Vice Chair; William Kenniston; Rodney Heikkinen; Jim Long, Amanda Allen, Rebecca Harmatys, Bill Nichols, Gayle Long

6:30 PM; Board Chair; Jeff Bryant called the meeting to order.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

American Rescue Plan Act – MMA Presentation

Presenter - Neil Goldberg: New version of ARPA is more flexible than a year ago. US Dept of Treasury is the resource for updated information.

ARPA Goals

- Respond to the pandemic
- Economic impact
- Create lasting and resilient growth

Approved categories for use of funds

- 1 Public Sector revenue
- 2 Public health and economic response
- 3 Premium pay to employees
- 4 Water Systems and services
- 5 Adjustments made 8 months ago by Treasury

1. Public Sector Revenue – every community will have an assumed revenue loss so theoretically all funds (approx. \$324,000 total) could be used for government services, i.e., road repair, public safety services and equipment, parks & rec, technology. Monies could also be shared with Non-Profits who rely on the town for financial resources as long as the allocation does not exceed \$50,000. Restrictions – Funds can't be used for direct tax relief or long-term debt. No single employee can receive more than \$25,000 in ARPA funds. Elected officials can not give themselves ARPA funds.

ARPA money has to be spent and/or allocated by Dec 31, 2025. Once allocated, the money must be spent by Dec 31, 2027. The deadline to report the use of the money is April 30, 2022. The second payment will tentatively be in early Fall 2022.

2. Approval of Minutes: March 15, 2022 (2)

- Motion to approve March 1 minutes (2) with corrections; R Heikkinen; Seconded: J Bryant; VOTE: 4-0

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- Motion to approve Executive session minutes on March 15; R Heikkinen; Seconded: W Kenniston; VOTE: 5-0
- Motion to approve meeting minutes for March 15,2022: J Bryant ; Seconded: E Souther; VOTE 5-0

3. Old Business

- **TIF (Tax Increment Financing)** – J Long reviewed suggestions for use of TIF funds for the Select Board to consider. Implementation of these funds would be a positive impact to the budget. A summary of the original TIF agreement has been provided to all Selectmen. TIF funds can be used for:
 - a. Chamber of Commerce Dues
 - b. AVCOG Dues
 - c. Allocated 5% of Town Manager Comp & Benefit to Economic Development
 - d. Street lights – LED conversions
 - e. Public works 1.Sidewalks, 2.Welcome Signage 3.Road repair within the TIF criteria
 - f. Community Development Coordinator (part-time person – 2 days a week) to coordinate activities for the town, communication, parks and recreation oversight, town décor, culture & arts

TIF has been funded since 2014, A. Allen would like the funds to be used on one item.

- **Budget Discussions**

- Elected Officials – R Heikkinen has suggested that Selectmen get a \$400 annual increase. E Souther suggested that the current rate \$2100 remain unchanged. The Assessor fees have been moved to Professional Services
- Police Department – postponed discussion
- Fire Department – Due to current increases in fuel prices, M Booker would like to increase fuel budget by \$1000.
- Public Works – The budget includes a \$0.75 increase for diesel. B Nichols is concerned that with the current volatility with fuel prices, it will be difficult to project needs – Souther suggested increase of \$3400. Salt will be going up because the price is dependent on fuel costs for transportation. Nichols recommended an increase of \$4000. The Town bids on 600 tons but has to buy a minimum of 450 tons. The Town salt shed is currently full in preparation for next year.
- Transfer Station – No Questions
- Buildings – Wages include Custodian and Nichols stipend.
- Professional Services – J Long: The Business Recruitment Committee recommends that the Town reserve \$15,000 a year to prepare for an eventual Town Re-valuation which is typically over \$250,000. The last one was done about 20 years ago.

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- Summer Recreation – Though there hasn't been any Summer rec in two years, funds were left in the expense center thus there will be no change for this year.
- Recreation – AYS, Field maintenance and other items that were included in the Summer Recreation Budget have been moved to Recreation.
- Contractual – The budget for hydrants will remain the same.

4. Warrants/Abatements/ Deeds/Quit Claim

5. Board Discussion/Department Head Discussion

- a. J Bryant - NA
- b. J Long – NA
- c. R Heikkinen – The school budget will be voted on the last Tuesday in April.
- d. W Kenniston – During a discussion with Chief M Booker, there may be an opportunity to purchase a used fire truck from JAY for \$25,000 for the new East Livermore Fire Substation
- e. E Souther – NA

6. Manager's Discussion

7. 7:52pm Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn: J Bryant; Seconded, R. Heikkinen VOTE: 5-0

