



**OFFICE OF THE  
Advisory Board  
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**November 3, 2021**

Present: Michelle Bobkov, Jim Frey, Jake Lewon, Harold Simmons, Leo Tometich, Matt Naughton; Town Administrator Brian Palaia

Meeting called to order 6:36 p.m. at Dunstable Town Hall

**ITEM 1: Budget Options for Applying Rescue Act Funds**

Current proposals for allocating \$1,017,180 in ARPA funds were presented for discussion

- Roughly \$300k has already been advanced to the Dunstable from the Commonwealth
- Funds must be committed by 2024, and must be spent by 2026.
- Advice received from the Commonwealth that ARPA funds should not be prioritized for educational uses, because there are other direct funds available, such as ESSER. It is still possible to do this as needed.
- Various items discussed, including:
  - o GDRSD funds request
  - o Technology expenses and safety equipment
  - o Performance pay for essential workers that were not covered during shut-down periods
  - o MS4 retrofits (EPA federal permit) for storm water management that are mandated
  - o Legal costs for fund planning
  - o Resident utility and mortgage relief for those adversely impacted by COVID. More program details required here.

**ITEM 2: GDRSD Request for ARPA Funds**

GDRSD was sent \$150,000 (out of \$320,000 total) from Dunstable in FY21, from first round CARES act funding. GDRSD is requesting additional disbursements for the current round of ARPA funding (see item 1). The amount of this request has been changing, and was originally \$182,400 (April) but is now approximately \$270,000.

Information detailing and supporting GDRSD's request was provided, however a full discussion with GDRSD and school committee representatives will be planned for the next Advisory meeting.

Two follow up questions raised that will be passed along to GDRSD's administration:

- What were the full distribution of public funds to GDRSD in FY21?
  - o Groton distributed \$640k to GDRSD (out of ~\$1M) from first CARES
  - o There were also FEMA funds sent to GDRSD, which were not presented
- Are we seeing the full accounting of funding and costs for SPED program, including all grant funding?

**ITEM 3: Affordable Housing Update including RFP**

The new RFP draft is progressing well - the board reviewed the November 2, 2021 version. This round of RFP is designed to be more attractive to securing responses developers. Goal is to issue RFP on November 30.

### **Review/Approve Minutes**

Minutes from the 15 September 2021 meeting were discussed.

Motion to accept with no modifications: Harold

2<sup>nd</sup>: Leo

Vote: Unanimously approved.

### **Next Meeting**

Tentative dates proposed for next meetings:

- Nov 23 for special meeting with GDRSD to discuss ARPA request and override scenarios
- December 8 for next regular Advisory Board meeting

Motion to adjourn Harold, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim. Vote: Unanimous to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm