

American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Town of Pomfret, Connecticut 1.24.22



**The Town and Pomfret Community School are receiving
ARPA and Covid Relief Funds**

**American Rescue Plan Act Funds for
the Town of Pomfret:
\$1,243,880**

- Covid Relief Funds received and anticipated by Pomfret Community School for restricted use:
 - $\$120,280 + \$87,595 + \$163,870 = \$371,745$
(ESSER, OPM, CARES, ESSER II, ARP Funds)
 - Covid Relief Funds received by the Town Pomfret:
 - \$24,000 for covid mitigation in buildings.

Review of ARPA

- In June of 2021, the Town of Pomfret was notified that \$1,243,880.29 of the American Rescue Plan ACT (ARPA) funds would be made available to our town. The funds will be disbursed in two payments of \$621,940.15. We received the first installment in June 2021 and the next \$621,940.15 is expected in June 2022.
- Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and the use of those funds is subject to strict guidelines outlined by the Department of the Treasury. Broadly speaking, the funds are intended to respond to the impacts identified by towns during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ARPA funds provided to municipalities is an unprecedented opportunity for every city and town in the United States to pursue public health, community revitalization, economic development, and infrastructure improvements that would otherwise be out of reach. Nonetheless, the Treasury Department guidelines make it clear that the funds are not a “blank check” for municipal wish-list projects.

The “Final Rule”

- In March of 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law, sending over \$350 million in relief to state and local governments. Now, the Department of Treasury, after months of consultation with stakeholders, has published the **Final Rule** for the state and local fiscal recovery funds. Final Rule includes a non-exhaustive list of projects that recipients can undertake with these funds without undergoing additional independent analysis.
- The program ensures that governments have the resources needed to: • Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts, • Maintain vital public services, amid declines in revenue, and • Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.
- Recipients can use funds for programs, services, or capital expenditures that respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Funds must be used for costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021. Further, funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

SPENDING ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES

via **Final Rule**

Government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government, unless Treasury has stated otherwise. Here are some common examples, although this list is not exhaustive:

- ✓ Construction of schools and hospitals
- ✓ Road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure
- ✓ Health services
- ✓ General government administration, staff, and administrative facilities
- ✓ Environmental remediation
- ✓ Provision of police, fire, and other public safety services

Government services is the most flexible eligible use category under the program, and funds are subject to streamlined reporting and compliance requirements. Recipients should be mindful that certain restrictions, which are detailed further in the Restrictions on Use section and apply to all uses of funds, apply to government services as well.

ARPA Advisory Committee

Pomfret has established an ARPA Advisory Committee that has been meeting, discussing, reviewing, and proposing projects for several months. The committee includes representation from the:

Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance
Economic Planning and Development Commission
Recreation Department
Emergency Management
Department of Public Works
Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group
Pomfret Community School
Pomfret Proprietors
Pomfret Public Library
and the public at large.

The list of proposed expenditures compiled will focus on responding to the challenges of a pandemic and position our community to be more resilient in the future.

Projects proposed address a wide selection of entities:

- Town Hall
- Department of Public Works / equipment/ roads/ drainage
- Pomfret Community School
- Pomfret Public Library
- Emergency Services / Broadband / Radios
- Pomfret Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD)
- Technology and Social Media
- Recreation Park Improvements, Future Trail Development / Maintenance / Open Space
- Long Range Planning for current and future facilities, climate change resilience
- Safety for residents / Online Permitting/ Virtual Meetings
- Social Services / case management
- Non-Profits

List of Proposed Expenditures

Please hold questions until the end. Thanks!

**More than 20 projects and 3 requests from area non-profit agencies.
Current incomplete total of proposed expenses is \$1,464,140.**

**Which is \$220,257 more
than the \$1,243,880 in ARPA Funds available to spend.**



Pomfret Community School & Library



- **Pomfret Community School:**

Purchase and installation of 175 Kw 120/208vac, 3 phase generator to provide back-up power to kitchen, hallways, and bathrooms to provide resilience during power outages. (\$125,000) Air Conditioning Units: purchase and installation of AC units for 31 rooms to mitigate ongoing environmental challenges in classrooms . (\$170,500)
Total: \$252,500

- **Pomfret Public Library:**

Purchase and installation of generator for back-up power to library to provide resilience during power outages. (\$15,000 est.) Air conditioning / ventilation units to mitigate ongoing environmental challenges of small, repurposed building (\$ unknown), Replace front door with hands free door (\$15,000), 8 Chrome books for patrons (\$2,000), resurfacing back deck space used for programming (\$20,000), fully insulate second floor, frame and sheetrock a section for storage, (\$30,000)
Total: \$82,000



The Rec Park



- **Upgrades / Repairs to Recreation Facilities:**

We have seen a remarkable increase in the use of our recreational facilities and trails during the pandemic. There is a need to resurface basketball and tennis courts, (\$8,000), add additional 9-disc golf course goals (\$13,000), provide permanent restroom facilities with concession / storage space.(one drop-in facility \$230,000), facility map and trail signage (\$3,000), install second well, for irrigation and cleaning. (\$unknown), extend electric service to baseball field (\$unknown). Add Pickleball Court? (\$unknown)

- **Municipal Facilities Survey:**

Existing conditions and energy analysis, develop prioritized capital plan, and energy / space / health improvement assessments for Town Hall, Community Center, Library, PCS. (\$37,250)

Open Space and Trails on Town Land

- **Open Space Fund:**

Begin to replenish the open space acquisition and improvement fund and to assist future, continued preservation of land parcels determined to be of value and contiguous with existing open space corridors. (\$50,000)

- **Pomfret Trail Development and Improvement:**

Mapping, trail design, connection, and development, marking, signage, gates, kiosks, long term maintenance program. (\$8,000 est)



Emergency Preparedness & Radios



- **Improvements to the Emergency Response Center:**

Installation of a folding wall to restore the common area to its original design and intended use.

The folding / retractable wall will allow the large common room to be expanded when a larger space is needed to support the Emergency Operations Center or closed off when not in use for KB Ambulance employees' privacy and confidentiality. (\$12,000). Installation of large screen and projector to project data and maps, installation of external, cellular phone booster, wifi extender, and other IT improvements. (\$8,000)

- **Radios:**

To provide a unified radio system for DPW and PVFD with reliable coverage throughout Town. Currently coverage is spotty, and the repeater is broken. Implement an 800-megahertz range radio system that allows for communication across agencies, QVEC, State Police, and eliminates dead spots. Two base units and 11 portable units. (\$35,357.28)



Public Works Department

- **DPW Equipment:**

Build a more resilient department and improve the Town's ability to maintain infrastructure and address impacts of climate change. Mini excavator to facilitate drainage issue repairs on dirt roads as a result of climate change and increased occurrences of flooding (\$70,000), acquire a used road grader to better and more quickly regrade dirt roads (\$60,000), purchase a used 20-ton trailer to move equipment (\$15,000), replace pick-up truck with new vehicle with plow for daily use and winter maintenance of town facilities. (\$55,000), purchase one sander to replace worn unit (\$6,000).

Total: \$206,000.00

Road Improvements and Inventory

- **Carter Road:**
Drainage remediation to address recent, repeated flooding and damage to municipal and residential property. (\$50,000 est.) Work is being designed by town's civil engineer.
- **Wolf Den Drive Remediation:**
1.5-mile unpaved town owned road through Mashamoquet Brook State Park has washed out and is impassable. Project is estimated at \$1.5m for road rebuild, but we are looking to partner with the state to fix the road and have the state take it over. (\$50,000 est. for materials)
- **Road Inventory and Long-Range Plan for Maintenance:**
Existing conditions analysis, of 57 miles of paved and 7 miles of unimproved roads, prioritization of maintenance and cost estimates for improvements over 5 years time (\$20,000 est)



Virtual Meetings and Outreach



- **Social Media Presence:**

Currently Pomfret does not have a robust social media presence. Funds would be used to establish an online presence to inform residents of important events related to the Town, health issues, vaccinations, masking, meetings, emergency conditions, shelters etc. Once established, position would become a permanent part-time position to continue to provide current critical information to residents. (\$16,000 est. total for 4 years)

- **Technology for Virtual Meetings:**

We are inadequately prepared for virtual meetings as we do not have a system to address the sound or video of larger meetings. Dedicated systems are needed (Community Center, Library, and PCS), to host virtual meetings. (\$31,225.00 incomplete est)



Backup and Broadband



- **Sewer Infrastructure:**
1 Back-up pump for one pump station as requested by Putnam Water Pollution Control Agency. Three of the four pump stations have back up pumps, but one station was not completed or tied-in at the time the project closed-out. (\$13,500)
- **Broadband: Extend Nutmeg Network to Emergency Operations Center / Garage :**
Permitting and installation of 12 strand single-mode fiber optic cable approximately 1.15 miles from Town Hall to EOC. Town would own the fiber and fix it as needed. Estimate from Sertex. (\$60,000)

Town Hall Upgrades

- **Vault Upgrades at Town Hall:**

Removal of carpeting in vault as recommended by State of Connecticut as best practices to maintain fire safe environment / protect documents. Floor to be unfinished / painted concrete / or fireproof tile. (\$5,500)

- **Ventilation System at Town Hall:**

Installation of 8 air conditioning and filtering elements to eliminate individual window units and improve ventilation and air filtration, and reduce stale air conditions in the Town Hall environment. (\$44,000)



Relocation of Bulky Waste Collection Site

- **Bulky Waste Facility:** To locate an enhanced permanent facility in Town would allow residents to responsibly dispose of solid waste more appropriately and more regularly. We are planning a modest facility at the end of Nora Lane using a STEAP Grant for \$128,000. With additional funding, that plan can be enhanced to take and recycle a larger variety of materials. (\$100,000)
- Design underway by town engineer.





Sidewalk Extension, a Dam, and Social Services



- **Sidewalk Extension:**

The new sidewalk has seen a large increase in usage and demonstrates the need to extend it beyond its current end at the intersection of Routes 44 /169. An extension to the east would connect to the Post Office, restaurant, convenience store, and commercial spaces to make the area safer for pedestrians and encourage economic development. (\$50,000 approx.)

- **Non-profits:**

Requests from non-profits need to be vetted by a formal process that evaluates how the money will be spent and specifies record keeping. The Town is ultimately responsible for how those funds are distributed and spent. Application forms must be completed.

- 4H Camp; Funds to contribute to the repair/rebuilding of failing dam. Estimate (\$25,000)
- The ARC (\$2,000)
- TEEG (\$10,000 x 4 years= \$40,000) case management, for all ages
- TVCCA request (\$1,000)



Reporting, Record Keeping and Documentation



- **ARPA Administration by NECCOG:** Point of Contact Reporting, Account Administration of ARPA funds and funds distributed to third party agencies. Accurate record keeping and documentation is essential to avoid/prevent penalties or repayment of funds. (\$10,205 total)

Suggestions? Ideas?

- The project list discussed tonight is not exhaustive and we are looking for additional ideas from the public. A few residents have provided suggestions and those projects will be taken into consideration.
- Please contact any member of the committee or the Selectmen's office at 860-974-0191



Have you considered.....

- Projects suggested by residents:

Town pavilion/bandstand on land across from Town Hall, stipend for first responders, community garden, playground, projects to benefit children and young families, playground near Pomfret Station, increase funding for Pomfret Library (full time children's librarian for more children's events) and increase funding for PCS (covered outside play area for inclement weather),



What's Next?

- Online survey during the month of February from the Town of Pomfret website:
- pomfretct.gov

ARPA Advisory Committee to Make a Recommendation to Board of Selectmen

- The ARPA Advisory Committee will take into consideration resident comments, suggestions, and results of the online survey.
- They will then make a recommendation of projects and expenditures to the Board of Selectmen.
- The Board of Selectmen has the ultimate discretion about how the funds will be allocated. Funds must be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

Long Range Impact for the Future of Pomfret

- This is an unprecedented opportunity for every city and town in the United States to pursue public health, community revitalization, economic development, and infrastructure improvements that would otherwise be out of reach.

ARPA Advisory Committee Members: Patrick McCarthy, Steve Cullinan, Barbara Gagnon, Derek May, Louisa Jones, Margie Huoppi, Anne Miller, Charlie Tracy, Barry Jessurun, Bob Lohr, Maureen Nicholson, Walter Hinchman

