

Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
March 13, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall West Meeting Room 1, 131 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Thomas O'Brien, David Maikowski, John Leone

Jennifer Van Gorder, Michael Dumas, David Preleski, Susan Sadecki, Mark Peterson (4:08 p.m.) attended via Zoom.

Absent: Cindy Bombard, Howard Schmelder, John Smith, Mickey Goldwasser, Morgan Urgo, Glenn Heiser

Also present: Justin Malley, Robin Manuele, Roger Rousseau, Ray Rogozinski and Diane Waldron
Via Zoom: Martha McCabe, Sarah Goss, and Stacey Farber from UHY and Jason Welch

1. Call to Order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Approval of minutes of Regular Meeting – February 13, 2023

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion seconded by Commissioner Leone "to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 13, 2023." Motion approved.

4. Subcommittee Reports:

a. Business Subcommittee

The Business subcommittee met prior to the meeting. They met with MOVIA and their lawyers and reviewed financial information that was presented. Commissioner Preleski advised the Task Force that MOVIA was given an advance for payroll through March 31. Members concerns were discussed. Mayor Caggiano questioned if the funds are being used for what they were allocated for, that they should provide a reconciliation to the City after the March 31st deadline. Without that the City can't make any decisions based on if the funds were used for the scope of the project for which they need to be held accountable. Firefly was also discussed briefly and will be discussed in the future.

b. City Subcommittee

The City subcommittee met on Friday; Justin reviewed a request by a developer, Bill Baker of Endurance Properties, who is trying to close a financing gap on a significant 8-acre development that would include a 26,000 medical facility, restaurant and car wash. Specifically, there is an approximate cost of \$1.2 million to install a traffic signal on Route 6. The traffic signal must be installed, at the developer's expense, in order to unlock the entire development. Also, the signal would improve safety for the general area, as there have been traffic issues and accidents primarily emanating from Sheila Court across the street from the proposed development. Currently the 8 acres is zoned as farmland. This request is comparable to the request of another developer on Route 6 who received ARPA funding to install a fire hydrant which assisted in the development of the property. This request benefits the developer and the City as a whole, as jobs and tax

revenue will be coming into the City. The City subcommittee would like to see ARPA funds in the amount of \$500,000 allocated towards the project approved. This amount supplements the original quote of \$750,000 the developer received in 2019 for the traffic signal.

Commissioner O' Brien made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dumas "To approve \$500,000 of revenue loss funds to the Route 6 Traffic Signal Infrastructure project." Commissioner O'Brien amended the motion seconded by Commissioner Maikowski, "pending approval by the State by December 2023." Motion approved.

Commissioner Leone questioned if the State approved this project as it is a State road. Justin explained it is in phase 2 of the approval process. It was suggested to ask the State if they can contribute funds towards the project. Mayor Caggiano stated the traffic study report supports this traffic signal. Commissioner Peterson stated it is a state road, they should be paying for it and he noted traffic lights will be very close to each other. Ray Rogozinski stated this is a private development the City is assisting in, but there is a public benefit to the City residents at Shelia Court. This warrants the installation of a traffic light based on the traffic study, however the DOT may require a long process with other improvements to the area.

Mayor Caggiano stated the City subcommittee also discussed cost overruns within projects, using funds that are left and unallocated for this purpose. Everyone is seeing 20-30% cost escalation for projects. \$2.4 million of funding is available to allocate, with funding available from BBBGP. While approximately \$3 million is available the City subcommittee will be proactively be looking at setting up a Contingency fund for project overruns.

5. Discussion with UHY Advisors

Martha provided updates that UHY has been working on with the City. All subrecipients must have their UEI number for the next quarter's reporting. Justin stated job interviews for the ARPA Coordinator are taking place on Wednesday. Mayor Caggiano stated the Community Investment Fund decisions will be out tomorrow which will affect City projects and BARC.

6. Project Revisions and Updates

- a. Request for Change in Project Work Plan/Budget – Bristol Preschool Child Care Center/Bristol Child Development Center

Martha discussed the change request and noted the cost of the playground is coming in higher so they can only do two of the three playgrounds. They only budgeted \$135,000 and it came in over \$155,000 for the playgrounds. They will be moving more than 10% from Equipment to Supplies for this change.

Commissioner Sadecki made a motion Commissioner Maikowski "To approve the change in Project Work Plan/Budget – Bristol Preschool Child Care Center/Bristol Child Development Center."

7. Building Bristol Grant Program Update

- a. To discuss reallocating remaining BBGP funds

UHY reached out to the Building Bristol Grant Program participants. There were several who switched from sub recipient to beneficiary status, however there are still four who have not yet responded. If all 15 decide to switch, an agreement will be provided by the City. All the recipients will provide reimbursement requests directly to the City along with their proof of match. Once that is provided, hopefully all at once, the documentation will be completed for reimbursement. A desk review will be done on the subrecipients who are remaining, and then these projects can hopefully get moving along and completed by the end of the year. The Mayor asked the Task Force if there are any of the red or yellow highlighted projects that UHY has not

heard from to assist in reaching out to them. Mayor Caggiano stated these projects are moving along better than they were a few months ago. Once the ARPA Coordinator is hired, they can focus on these as well.

8. Approval of additional appropriation for UHY Contract - \$192,800

Commissioner Leone made a motion seconded by Commissioner O'Brien "To approve an additional appropriation of \$192,800 for the UHY contract." Motion approved.

9. Any other business

None

10. Adjournment

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion seconded by Commissioner "to adjourn" at 5:30 p.m. Motion approved.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary