AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING: TOWN COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS

Mansfield Town Council Meeting
January 10, 2022
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) - OVERVIEW

- **$1.9 trillion in funding** to individuals, schools, businesses, and areas suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Of that total at the national level, **CT municipalities are slated to receive $2.55 billion** ($1.56 billion to general government / $995 million to schools)

- **The Town of Mansfield will receive a total allocation of ~ $7,543,000** that is disbursed via two equally sized “tranches” ($3.771 million in 2021; $3.771 million in 2022)
  - This amount does **not** include ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund allocations received by Mansfield Public Schools ($754,781) or Regional School District #19 ($835,051)
ELIGIBLE USES OF ARPA FUNDING

▪ **Support public health response:** Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare and certain public health and safety staff

▪ **Address negative economic impacts:** Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, and nonprofits, or impacted industries and re-hiring of public sector workers

▪ **Replace public sector revenue loss:** Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic

▪ **Premium pay for essential workers:** Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure

▪ **Water, sewer and broadband infrastructure:** Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access
RECOMMENDATIONS (1 OF 5)
SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

- Municipal Facility Upgrades - $392,500
  - Mansfield Public Library - $353,000
  - Mansfield Community Center/Parks & Recreation - $39,500
- Human/Social Services Mobile Outreach - $60,000
- Human Services Programs - $100,000
- COVID-19 Direct Response Efforts - $20,000

TOTAL - $572,500

All Projects/Investments Capable of being Completed in < 1 Year
RECOMMENDATIONS (2 OF 5)
ADDRESSING NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Funding Support for Area Social Service Agencies - $400,000
  - Recipients/award amounts informed by Human Services Advisory Committee recommendations

- Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) “Seeding” - $500,000
  - Eligible uses of these funds are laid out in the newly adopted AHTF Ordinance

- Business Relief, Façade Improvement Funds, Marketing - $300,000

- Arts Relief Fund - $75,000

- White Oaks Condominiums Wastewater System - $200,000
  - Would require WOC to agree to AH deed restrictions on a TBD # of units

- Eagleville Green Project Support - $750,000
  - Funding for this project ($15 million in total) is being derived from many public/private sources

TOTAL - $2,225,000 (<1 year; 1-2 years; 2-4 years; 4-6 years)
RECOMMENDATIONS (3 OF 5)
REPLACING REVENUE LOSS

- Municipalities are able to compute reduction in revenue by comparing actual revenue to an alternative representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic.

- The Finance Department has produced a conservative estimate of revenue loss replacement for 2020 and 2021 → $2.5 million.

- The recently issued final federal rule from the U.S. Treasury suggests that municipalities will now be able to claim considerably higher revenue losses and have greater flexibility in how these funds are ultimately used.

- **Recommendation:** Allocate $2 million to replace lost revenue for 2020 & 2021, with the lion’s share going to the Parks & Recreation Fund; program an additional $25,000 for MCC financial consulting services.

**TOTAL - $2,025,000**
RECOMMENDATIONS (4 OF 5)
WATER, SEWER & BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

▪ Broadband Digital Inclusion Initiative - $300,000

▪ Expansion of the Four Corners Water & Sewer Service Area - $2,250,000
  o Total Estimated Project Cost → ~$3,000,000
  o Requires 25% Match ($750,000) in the Form of Assessments and/or Other Grants

TOTAL - $2,550,000 (<1 year; 1-2 years; 2-4 years; 4-6 years)
RECOMMENDATIONS (5 OF 5)

PREMIUM PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS: REPROGRAMMED

- Since the start of the pandemic, many municipal and school workers have put their physical wellbeing at risk to meet the Town’s needs.

- Premium pay is one means by which the Town can acknowledge municipal and school employees for stepping up during these unprecedented times.

- ARPA only authorizes municipalities to administer premium pay to a narrowly defined “frontline” workers (i.e., public safety, public health, human services).

- Providing premium pay to a wider definition of municipal/school employees would run contrary to the stated eligible uses of ARPA funding.

- Recommendation: Forgo allocating ARPA funds for this purpose and instead utilize other Town funds (i.e., PILOT funding) for the purpose of providing premium pay to municipal, MBOE, and Region 19 employees. It is recommended that the $150,000 previously recommended for this purposes be reprogramed for local business funding support.
# SUMMARY OF PROPOSED INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Funding Use Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Public Health Response</td>
<td>$572,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing Negative Economic Impacts</td>
<td>$2,225,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Replacing Revenue Loss</td>
<td>$2,025,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sewer &amp; Broadband Infrastructure</td>
<td>$2,550,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,372,500</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town of Mansfield ARPA Allocation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residual/Contingencies</td>
<td>$170,500</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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NEXT STEPS:

Ongoing Town Council Review, Deliberation and Decision-making on Proposed Investments (February/March)
DEFERRED PROJECTS (not an exhaustive list)

- DPW/Public Safety/General Government Vehicle Wash Facility - $1,000,000
- Regional Wastewater System Study - $TBD
- Redevelopment Planning for Goodwin & Vinton Schools and Southern Gateway - $TBD
- Wastewater Pump Station Replacement - $225,000
- Culvert Replacements - $700,000
  - Birch Road - $500,000
  - Puddin Lane - $100,000
  - Hunting Lodge Road - $100,000
- Water Utility System Extensions - $7,500,000
  - Mansfield Middle School - $2,500,000
  - Mansfield Elementary School - $3,000,000
  - Vinton School - $2,000,000
- Southeast Baseball Lighting Upgrades – $500,000-$1,000,000