

Warrant Notes

The Town of Fryeburg will hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the David & Doris Hastings Community Center, 59 Recreation Drive

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) became law. This federal law is an effort to support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulted in the Town of Fryeburg being allocated \$364,480.12 to be expended within the confines of the law. To date, the Town has received \$182,229 and will receive 1 more payment later this year. These funds need to be obligated by 12/31/2024.

The legislative body of the Town of Fryeburg needs to authorize the appropriation of the ARPA funds the same way it would appropriate and authorize the expenditure of other municipal revenues.

Particular planned expenditures currently include the following and accounts for approximately 41% of the total ARPA funds to be received:

Public Safety Equipment: Specific equipment proposed to be purchased is portable radar/message board sign and a portable light tower (approx. \$26,200). The portable message sign can be used to convey and communicate vital information to the public. The portable light tower allows first responders and public works to respond to nighttime incidents in a safer manner.

Library Programming: Proposed Library programming includes the implementation of a book mailing and/or delivery service and additional online programming; these will promote education assistance and engagement of seniors, all of which has been and continues to be vital during COVID times. (\$2,000).

Recreation Complex Improvements: The use of outdoor facilities has been increased during the pandemic, resulting in increased maintenance needs and increased need for safe recreation opportunities. These funds (approx. \$13,300) will be used to resurface the outdoor basketball court and add pickleball specific court markings.

Fryeburg Teen Center: The Teen Center has been thriving in the pandemic and offers teens a safe place to congregate in the after-school hours. There is need to consider additional staffing and to expand programming. The Teen Center has received generous grants/donations and is currently operating solely off donations; having additional funds (\$10,000) set aside would allow for continuity of operations for a period of time if the grants/donations are not continued.

Public Works Equipment: The specific equipment proposed for purchase is an additional mower (approx. \$8,500). The Public Works crew is being asked to do more with less all the time; this includes the maintenance of public spaces (new and existing). As these outdoor spaces are getting more use than ever, there is a need for increased maintenance and as such, our department needs to be able to react in an expeditious and productive manner.

Computer/IT Upgrades: Proposed use of funds includes upgrading our VPN connection to allow server access so we can more efficiently retrieve town programs and files remotely, purchasing an additional laptop, and would allow for consideration of increased online programs/resources that can be accessed by the public and reduce trips to the Town Office (\$5,000).

Fryeburg Rescue: Fryeburg Rescue has requested that each town within its service area to contribute funds towards the purchase of 2 power-load cot systems that enable easier raising/lowering and loading/unloading ambulances. Fryeburg's requested share is \$25,406.

Premium Pay: Essential employees who worked throughout the pandemic are eligible to receive premium pay. This will be done as a bonus, using the regular hours each current/active employee worked during the declared Civil State of Emergency (3/15/2020-6/30/2021). Employees were steadfast in their approach to work throughout the pandemic and keep the town running without any breaks in service. (Approx. \$58,550).