



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## **Finance Sub-Committee**

March 3, 2022

2:00pm

Virtual Format

**Watch this meeting LIVE on Comcast Channels 96, 1090, Frontier Channel 6071 and  
LIVE streamed or on-demand at [www.simsburytv.org](http://www.simsburytv.org)**

## **SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

### Call to Order

- 1) Approval of Minutes
  - a. January 31, 2022
- 2) Potential Use of ARPA Funds – Police Therapy Dog
- 3) Draft Policy Resolution – American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding
- 4) Potential Use of ARPA Funds
  - a. FY23 Proposed Operating, CNR and Capital Needs
  - b. Other

### Adjournment



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Work Group Special Meeting**

Monday, January 31, 2022

Virtual Meeting Broadcast Live via SCTV

### **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Wendy Mackstutis, Sean Askham

**Staff Present:** Amy Meriwether, Melissa Appleby, Maria Capriola

**Others Present:** Selectman Amber Abbuhl, Selectman Heather Goetz, Lisa Heavner (Board of Finance), Jackie Battos

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.

#### **1) Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2021**

The minutes of December 2, 2021 were approved by consensus.

#### **2) Review and discussion of Final Rule from U.S. Treasury**

Ms. Meriwether provided an overview of the final rule, which provided more detailed explanation and definitions regarding the categories for eligible use. Ms. Meriwether noted that there is an increase in the flexibility now permitted under the “revenue loss” category as it pertains to the use of funds for general government services.

The group discussed the parameters around the use of funds for general government services as compared to capital expenditures. Ms. Meriwether noted that we will be seeking clarification on what types of smaller capital and maintenance expenditures qualify, and whether we can use the funds to supplant regular budget items. The group briefly discussed the need to allocate funds for immediate relief, while also coming up with a comprehensive plan for all of the funds.

#### **3) Discussion of process and potential uses for ARPA funds**

##### **a. Public hearing feedback**

Ms. Mackstutis provided an overview of the feedback received from the public at the January 24 Board of Selectmen meeting.

##### **b. Proposed projects/categories**

The group reviewed and discussed the draft list of projects. The work group members requested that additional fields be presented to show the total annual cost for each project, where the project idea originated, and what the priority level is.

**c. Non-profit application – recommendation for BOS**

The work group agreed by consensus to advance this project to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

**d. Other**

None

**4) Next Steps**

The work group will schedule its next meeting for the week of February 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melissa Appleby  
Deputy Town Manager



# Simsbury Police Department

933 Hopmeadow Street

Simsbury, CT 06070



NICHOLAS J. BOULTER  
CHIEF OF POLICE

## Police Service Dog

A police service dog will greatly enhance the effectiveness and relationship between the police department and the community. A service dog will complement the existing roles, responsibilities and tasks of the police department by:

- Quickly removing social barriers and creating opportunities for positive engagement,
- Providing comfort to victims and witnesses,
- Encouraging cooperation, compliance and participation,
- Supporting social emotional needs of the community and department members,
- Reducing stress, and
- Assisting during or after a crisis.



The service dog will be assigned to an officer who regularly attends community based events; social, crime prevention and other informative meetings with individuals and groups in single family homes and commercial residential settings, businesses, the library, public and private schools and other public settings. The team will be able to respond to crises, provide assistance with patrol functions and investigations.

The service dog will not provide traditional police patrol support. It will not be trained to search for contraband or hazards, track or locate people, or confront or contain suspects. The dog will have extensive training to provide comfort and emotional support with a relaxing and welcoming demeanor.

The dog may spend significant time in a police vehicle, so it is imperative that the vehicle assigned to the handler is equipped with emergency, safety and comfort measures for both the officer and the dog. These measures are beyond that of a normal patrol vehicle and may include:

- Heat/temperature alarm
- Platform and cage area
- Automatic window fan

Ordinarily, patrol vehicles are pulled out of service prior to end of normal patrol service life and reassigned to positions that do not require such extensive use (engine hours and mileage). The reassigned vehicles normally last a couple more years after reassignment, before they need to be replaced again. If this process continued for a service dog vehicle, it will be costly to transfer the dog specific equipment from one vehicle to another (est. over \$1,000 for each transfer) and two cars would be out of service during that transfer.



A one-time (life of the dog) purchase of a new marked cruiser with equipment seems to be the most logical approach. The estimated cost of a new fully equipped police cruiser (marked cruiser with emergency lights, MDT, dash-cameras, dog specific emergency, safety and comfort equipment, etc. installation) is \$66-70,000.00.

The service dog will require care and maintenance outside of a handler's work hours. The officer will be compensated for that time through a stipend. The details for the stipend have not been negotiated or agreed upon, but an estimated annual stipend has been provided.

**Estimated FY22 expenses (ARPA): \*Assuming the dog procured April 15, 2022\***

\$00.00	Dog and training – FREE!
\$70,000.00	Fully equipped marked cruiser with dog specific equipment
\$400.00	Veterinary Expenses (wellness, medications, food)
\$500.00	Supplies - collar, leash, dog beds, crates, food/water bowls, dog toys
\$100.00	Grooming
<u>\$1,482.00</u>	Officer Stipend
<b>\$72,482.00</b>	

**Estimated FY23 expenses (ARPA):**

\$2,000.00	Veterinary (wellness, medications, food)
\$400.00	Grooming
<u>\$7,665.00</u>	Officer Stipend
<b>\$10,065.00</b>	



**Estimated FY24 expenses (ARPA):**

\$2,000.00	Veterinary (wellness, medications, food)
\$400.00	Grooming
<u>\$8,212.50</u>	Officer Stipend
<b>\$10,612.50</b>	

**Estimated FY25 expenses (ARPA):**

\$2,000.00	Veterinary (wellness, medications, food)
\$400.00	Grooming
<u>\$8,212.50</u>	Officer Stipend
<b>\$10,612.50</b>	



**Estimated FY26 expenses (ARPA):**

\$2,000.00	Veterinary (wellness, medications, food)
\$400.00	Grooming
<u>\$8,212.50</u>	Officer Stipend
<b>\$10,612.50</b>	

**Estimated FY27 expenses (ARPA): \*1/2 year**

\$1,000.00	Veterinary (wellness, medications, food)
\$200.00	Grooming
<u>\$4,106.25</u>	Officer Stipend
<b>\$5306.25</b>	

### Donations:

It is anticipated this program will be very popular and will generate donations from the public and local businesses that will likely support most if not all recurring costs of this program (except for the officer stipend) for years to come.



### Proposed ARPA Funding for Service Dog Program

Year	Vehicle/Equip.	Vet. Expenses	Supplies	Grooming	Stipend (est.)	Total
FY22	\$70,000.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$1,482.00	\$72,482.00
FY23	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$7,665.00	\$10,065.00
FY24	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$8,212.50	\$10,612.50
FY25	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$8,212.50	\$10,612.50
FY26	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$8,212.50	\$10,612.50
FY27	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$4,106.25	\$5,306.25

SIMSBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RESOLUTION  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT PROGRAM FUNDING

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Simsbury is in receipt of funding from American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of the funding is to assist the Town in meeting immediate pandemic needs and to promote long-term recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 15, 2021 the Simsbury Board of Finance established a Special Revenue Fund for the receipt and expenditure of ARPA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2022 the United States Department of the Treasury published its Final Rule for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“SLFRF”) program regarding the municipal expenditure of ARPA funds, and

**WHEREAS**, on January 24, 2022 the Board of Selectmen held a public hearing to solicit comments and recommendations for the expenditures of SLFRF Program funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen finds that SLFRF Program funding to support the following programs in the amount listed herein is consistent with the ARPA Final Rule and will assist the Town in its long-term recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. Pursuant to Section 809 of the Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen recommends the following appropriations from the ARPA Special Revenue Fund for the expenditure of SLFRF Program funding to be used on COVID recovery programs, services, projects, and purchases such as but not limited to:

- Public health recovery
- Business recovery
- Non-profit recovery
- Student educational recovery and literacy efforts
- Mental health and well-being recovery
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Capital projects that support air-quality and HVAC systems in town-owned facilities
- Capital projects and purchases that support town-owned outdoor infrastructure such as parks, playgrounds, trails, open spaces, and other outdoor amenities
- Other categories or items as may be determined by the Board at a later date

**PROPOSED ARPA FUNDING**  
**Fiscal Year 2022/23 - Fiscal Year 2026/27**

	<u>FY22/23</u>	<u>FY23/24</u>	<u>FY24/25</u>	<u>FY25/26</u>	<u>FY26/27</u>
<b>CAPITAL</b>					
Tariffville Park Court Replacement	350,000				
Eno Renovation (HVAC)					1,000,000
House Rest Pond Bridge and Dam				400,000	
District Climate Control Improvements	1,200,000				
<b>CNR</b>					
Library Variable Air Volume Control	26,000				
Town Hall Variable Air Volume Control	12,000				
Lake Basile Dam			130,000		
Simsbury Farms Playscape/Playground	75,000				
Dredging of Town Forest Park Pond	50,000				
Tariffville Park Pavilion Replacement		75,000			
<b>OPERATING</b>					
Youth and Family Social Worker	111,730	114,244	116,814	119,442	61,065
Community Social Worker	111,730	114,244	116,814	119,442	61,065
School Social Worker	111,730	114,244	116,814	119,442	61,065
School Social Worker	111,730	114,244	116,814	119,442	61,065
Supervision costs for social workers	14,208	14,208	14,208	14,208	7,104
etc.)	20,600				
<b>Use of Funds by Year</b>	<b>\$ 2,194,726</b>	<b>\$ 546,182</b>	<b>\$ 611,464</b>	<b>\$ 891,977</b>	<b>\$ 1,251,364</b>
<b>Total Use of Funds</b>	<b>\$ 5,495,714</b>				