



City of Chicopee, Massachusetts

ARPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES 4/25/22

Attendance:

J. Vieau, M. Pise, J. Tillotson, G. Balakier, E. Batista, K. Donahue, S. Kulig, M. Laflamme, K. Lingenberg, S. Riley, L. Sanders

Excused: L. Sanders

I. Mayors Update:

The Mayor provided clarification of the ARPA funding - the City is receiving a direct allocation of \$28 million and a proportional share of County allocation of \$10 million. The spreadsheet contained within each meeting packet will contain funding approvals without the distinction of source but the Finance team will be tracking actual appropriations and expenditures.

Mayor stated that the City team continues to work towards a presentation to City Council on Retention bonuses and that CELD employees will be included in the final proposal. Discussion of need to leave some additional funds available in case there are legitimate miscalculations. Mayor stated there continues to be confusion about the essential pay vs retention. M. Laflamme and S. Riley shared that their offices were receiving call so clarity of message is very important.

II. Minutes Approval

Motion by E. Batista, 2nd by J. Tillotson to accept the minutes as presented in the meeting packet. All in favor.

III. ARPA Administrative Requirements

M. Laflamme shared that there had been substantial progress on both the reporting and the ARPA webpage. Work had started in the Treasury reporting system and we were on target to submit the Quarterly reports for period ending 3.31.2022 by the deadline. She stated that once ARPA web page was "live" she hoped the Advisory Committee would provide feedback on potential enhancements.

K. Lingenberg said there was some tweaking in the project reporting as they worked to ease data input into the Treasury system. Her example was that DPW input required permit numbers which had not been on the initial reporting template. She shared that the system also required sub-grantee /award detail for every vendor who receives a contract of \$50,000 or more. An administrative process would be created to capture necessary information at each Purchase Order/ Contract.

IV. Proposals/ requests:

Assistance to Non-Profit: K. Lingenberg reminded the group that we had agreed to continue discussion of assistance to non-profits. Discussion on each of the three potential non-profit eligibility categories. Specifically, 1. Impacted Industries- loss of revenue to non-profits within tourism, travel industries; 2. Negative Economic Impacts- operating support to non-profits that had negative economic impacts due to the pandemic; and 3. Equity-focused Services to Disproportionately Impacted persons. Discussion and agreement that the committee was interested in two eligibilities- Impacted Industries, revenue loss and

negative economic impacts only. Discussion of program details with agreement that the Committee needed to determine an appropriate allocation amount, a per-applicant maximum assistance amount, an application, and a review process. There was general agreement that the discussion would continue at the next meeting.

IV: Projects under Consideration:

Chicopee Library Redevelopment: K. Lingenberg reported that the renovation cost were indeed \$3.5 million. This price would address structural deficiencies, mechanicals, roofing, ADA access, and elevator, and front façade work that eliminated the awkward sliding glass doors. The City would not have to utilize the \$600,000 in bond authorization. Discussion of need to find ARPA eligible reuses that additionally supported downtown revitalization. Motion by M. Laflamme, 2nd by K. Donahue to allocate \$3.5 million. All in favor.

V: Funded Project- Status Update

Summary was submitted within the packet.

Mayor questioned the status of Homeowner Resiliency program; K. Lingenberg responded that they were working with 6 applicants but it was slow going as the potential beneficiaries needed a lot of hand holding.

E. Batista reported that there was an urgent situation at the ARPA-funded Fairview project that would require a collapsing pipe to be addressed immediately. The work was part of the original scope but needed to be undertaken out of the projected schedule.

VI: New Business

DPW has a potential project, Nitrogen Project that has been submitted for a federal earmark. If funded, the City would be required to contribute 10% of match. E. Batista informed the committee that the ARPA "ask" would be appx \$720,000. Project will be reviewed for funding consideration at the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by M. Laflamme, 2nd by J. Tillotson. All in favor.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 9AM