

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
VIRTUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

A. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Chairman Davidoff.

Attendees – Deputy Mayor Liam Sweeney, Councilor Leon Davidoff, Councilor Mary Fay, Mayor Shari Cantor, Town Manager Rick Ledwith, Finance Director Peter Privitera.

2. Business Items

A. A resolution to appropriate American Rescue Plan Act grant funds – Town Manager Ledwith explained the American Rescue Act funds would appropriate \$500k for the Wayfinding Signage Project, which will encourage connectivity within and to the town's commercial, residential, and industrial districts as well as directing residents and visitors to historic landmarks, restaurants, retail centers, parks, art and cultural venues, as well as religious institutions. In addition to improving navigation for all modes of travel, the Wayfinding Project will also emphasize links to transit, other forms of transportation, pedestrian walkways, and bike lanes. The town is also requesting an additional \$41k for the previously approved mobile command vehicle for which the council had appropriated \$375k of ARPA funds back in December for the purchase of this vehicle, which came in \$41k higher than anticipated.

B. A resolution appropriating additional funds to purchase police vehicles – Town Manager Ledwith discussed the purchase of five new 2022 police cars back in October of 2021 which were supposed to have a 40-week lead time, which has passed. Two weeks ago, Ford notified the council they had cancelled the order due to a shortage of materials and parts. To order the same five vehicles as 2023 police cars, there will be an additional cost of \$28,498 spread out over all five vehicles. The CNRE balance would be utilized to cover the additional cost and recommendation was made to move forward with this. Mayor Cantor asked for clarification from Finance Director Privitera to ensure the people know the source of the funding for the police vehicles. Finance Director Privitera explained the funding is from the Capital Nonrecurring Fund, which has a significant balance and will not affect the general fund.

C. A resolution appropriating funds for the temporary relocation of police department communications equipment – Town Manager Ledwith explained the resolution involves the temporary relocation of a utilized radio tower located on the top of the Hartford Insurance Group building due to replacement of the roof, at which time the antenna could be moved back. The space is leased at the cost of \$1 per year with no cost for electricity. Temporary relocation of the antenna will cost \$101k. Finance Director Privitera explained the funds used for the relocation will come from an expired overpayments account, which is set aside for purposes like this, so it will not increase the general fund.

D. A resolution authorizing the town manager to participate in the Brownfield Municipal Grant Program to support the environmental remediation and redevelopment of 900 Farmington Avenue – WHI Camelot, LLC intends to redevelop 900 Farmington Avenue as deed-restricted affordable housing units. This grant would provide financial assistance to support the environmental remediation and redevelopment of the site, which would total \$998k to assist with the remediation costs. The development plan proposes 44 units of mixed-income housing through the re-use of the current West Hartford Inn. Councilor Fay brought up a concern of ensuring parking accommodations for the development are met.

3. Communications

4. Staff Reports

- A. Human Resources Update – Town Manager Ledwith discussed the monthly report was uploaded to CivicClerk and noted a few highlights under recruitment, which are a new fire prevention inspector, Dr. Rosina Haskins was appointed as the executive director of equity advancement, and the first round of interviews for town equity coordinator were held today. Negotiations have begun for a new grounds' maintenance contract.

5. Future Agenda Items

- 6. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.
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