

Roxanne Maher

From: Moser, Erica <e.moser@theday.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 6:07 PM
To: William Saums; Roxanne Maher
Cc: Kevin J. Dombrowski; Matthew Bonin; Fred Allyn, III; Andra Ingalls; Timothy Ryan
Subject: Re: Question on ARPA spending

Hi Bill,

Thank you for this information. Would you also be able to send me the ARPA funds reconciliation report?

I had actually been planning to reach out regarding my future articles on how cities and towns in the region are spending ARPA dollars. I've so far written three articles - on outdoor recreation, mental health, and Ledge Light and Uncas health districts - and just started working on an article for Sunday's paper on ARPA funds going toward small businesses and economic development. In future weeks, I am also interested in writing articles about HVAC upgrades, water and sewer projects, WiFi and broadband upgrades, food insecurity, and premium pay.

I'm especially interested in talking to someone/people from Ledyard about water and sewer projects - because so much of the funding is going to that - and about HVAC upgrades. I was talking to Danielle Chesebrough a few weeks ago, and she said Stonington is putting its HVAC projects on hold because the latest estimates came in four times as high as previous ones. In addition to inflation, she said it's probably an issue because so many school districts and municipalities are looking to use ARPA funds for this purpose. So, I was also curious what Ledyard is seeing on this front.

I'd love to set up a phone interview or interviews this week to talk about these topics. Who would be the best person or people in Ledyard to speak with?

Thanks,

Erica Moser
Staff reporter, The Day
O: 860-701-4489
C: 215-872-4647

From: William Saums <WSaums@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>; Moser, Erica <e.moser@theday.com>
Cc: Kevin J. Dombrowski <KJDom@ledyardct.org>; Matthew Bonin <finance.director@ledyardct.org>; Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>; Andra Ingalls <aingalls@ledyardct.org>; Timothy Ryan <tryan@ledyardct.org>
Subject: RE: Question on ARPA spending

Erika, Kevin,

I noticed that I failed to copy Erika on my last reply, so please accept my apologies. I've since received and reviewed the ARPA funds reconciliation report from the finance director and can answer your questions. I've put my responses in red after each question below.

Happy to answer other questions as well.

-Bill Saums
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From: William Saums
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 10:35 AM
To: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Cc: Kevin J. Dombrowski <KJDom@ledyardct.org>
Subject: RE: Question on ARPA spending

Erica,, Kevin,

I apologize for not responding. I'm working with the finance director to reconcile what has been voted on, approved by the council, in process, and what is not; and it's taking me some time to do that. I do have the info I need from the finance director, and will spend some time to reply to your questions, and hopefully get you all the answers this week.

-Bill

From: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 7:22 PM
To: William Saums <WSaums@ledyardct.org>
Cc: Kevin J. Dombrowski <KJDom@ledyardct.org>; Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: FW: Question on ARPA spending

From: Moser, Erica <e.moser@theday.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 7:20 PM
To: Kevin J. Dombrowski <KJDom@ledyardct.org>
Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Re: Question on ARPA spending

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Hi Kevin,

Thank you very much for sending this! When you have a chance, I have some follow-up questions. I was a little bit confused about the list of projects on pages 17-19. They total \$2,857,423 (unless I added wrong) **(the total amount approved by the voters in the budget is \$1,954,510)**, which in addition the \$1,746,621 **(this amount is correct)** already committed on page 16, totals more than the \$4,327,000 ARPA allocation. Are the projects on pages 17-19 *proposals* for ARPA funding, to be approved later? **(Yes)** If so, when will that be? Or were they approved as part of the May 17 budget referendum, but other town money may be required in addition to ARPA funding? When you say that Ledyard chose to hold some of the funding in reserve as contingency for the selected projects, are you referring to the projects on pages 17-19? **(So, as Kevin mentioned, we did not put all of the projects forward as a recommendation to the voters – we had to pick and choose to stay within the total amount of funding. The total amount allocated via Town Council action and voter support was 3,701,131.00 with a 625,962.49 balance for contingencies. Costs are already coming in higher due to inflation, so that will be used up quickly, if not already.)**

A few other questions:

1. What is the Court of Probate project? (The Court of Probate in Groton, which is regional, needs more space, so they are renovating. They did not have cost estimates or a specific dollar amount request for each town prior to the budget vote, so we did not recommend an amount to the voters.)
2. What is the sawmill project? (The sawmill has foundation problems, and the penstock and water tank need to be replaced.)
3. I'm aware of the lead abatement issue at the Nathan Lester House, but what is the \$40,000 in other repairs for? (The lead abatement project has already been paid for with town funds, so we ended up not using ARPA funding for it. The house has other structural issues in need of attention (exterior siding replacement and interior plaster repair).)
4. Do you happen to have a breakdown of how much money is going toward town departments vs. how much is going to external nonprofits, businesses, or other organizations? (\$68,270 is going out of town (TVCCA, Ledge Light, Homeless Hospitality Center of NL). However, other projects that are technically going to town departments also serve people from out of town, examples being EV charging station on Rte. 12, police radio interoperability, \$190k for mental health clinicians for youth in the school system, where some could be from out of town, Lester House and Sawmill receive visitors from all over New England and don't charge fees), etc.
5. Has Ledyard received the second tranche of funding yet? If so, when? (Not sure, will check on this tomorrow.)

Best wishes,

Erica Moser
Staff reporter, The Day
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From: Kevin J. Dombrowski <KJDom@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 8:18 PM
To: Moser, Erica <e.moser@theday.com>
Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Re: Question on ARPA spending

Erica,
Ledyard received \$4,327,000 in ARPA funds for the General Government.
Ledyard held several working meetings to receive ideas and comments from the public on how the funds should be spent. The Town Council Finance Committee held these meetings, and then those ideas were discussed as part of the budget meetings and informational sessions.
Some items that were considered time sensitive were directly approved by the Town Council, but ultimately all of the items were included in the Capital Improvement Plan and approved as part of the May 17, 2022 Budget Referendum. I have attached the Budget presentation since this listed all of the projects chosen to be funded.
Ledyard did not obligate all of the funds, and chose to hold some of the funding in reserve as contingency for the selected projects.

Thanks
Kevin Dombrowski
Chair
Ledyard Town Council

From: Moser, Erica <e.moser@theday.com>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 12:17 PM

To: Kevin J. Dombrowski <KJDom@ledyardct.org>

Subject: Question on ARPA spending

Good afternoon,

I hope you're doing well. I'm working on a series of articles for The Day looking at how cities and towns in southeastern Connecticut are spending ARPA funds by category, e.g. social services, businesses, infrastructure, public safety, etc.

Can you please send me documents and/or links to this information for Ledyard?

- Total amount Ledyard is receiving
- Distribution of funds by name of organization, amount, and what it will be used for
- Amount that hasn't been distributed yet

Thanks!

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Staff reporter, The Day
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