

[Board of Finance 9-21-2021 Regular Meeting - YouTube](#)

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting Final Minutes  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
7:30 pm  
Via Webex**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 7:30 pm via Webex in Fairfield, CT.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Brown – Chair, Christopher DeWitt – Vice-Chair, Mary LeClerc – Secretary, Lori Charlton, David Fogel, Sheila Marmion, John Mitola, Jack Testani, Jim Walsh

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectwoman Kupchick, CFO Jared Schmitt, Attorney John Stafstrom, Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Engineering Manager Bill Hurley, Police Chief Bob Kalamaras, Fairfield Museum and History Center Executive Director Mike Jehle, Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, Town Attorney Jim Baldwin, IT Director Dave Kelley, BOE Liaison to BOF Jeff Peterson

1. Call to Order  
Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
Mr. Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **FIRST SELECTWOMAN (*with RTM approval*)**  
To hear, consider and act upon a resolution authorizing the acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds in an aggregate amount of up to \$24,830,536 and appropriating said funds for costs related to various projects.  
WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the “ARPA”) was enacted, which includes \$1.6 billion in relief for local governments; and  
WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfield (the “Town”) is expected to receive a total of \$24,830,536 in ARPA funds from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (the “Recovery Fund Grant”); and  
WHEREAS, to date, the Town has received \$12,415,283 of the Recovery Fund Grant with an additional \$12,415,283 expected to be received by June of 2022; and  
WHEREAS, the Town desires to accept the Recovery Fund Grant and appropriate said funds for costs associated with the projects set forth in the attached Exhibit 1, in the amounts designated for each project as set forth in the Exhibit 1.  
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:  
RESOLVED, that, the Town is authorized to accept the Recovery Fund Grant; and it is  
FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the Recovery Fund Grant funds, subject to availability, be appropriated for costs associated with the projects set forth in the attached Exhibit 1, in the amounts designated for each project as set forth in the Exhibit 1; and it is  
FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the First Selectwoman is authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Chris DeWitt made a motion to strike Item 3 and replace it with the following resolution as Item 3. Lori Charlton seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Brown read the new resolution to the BOF and to the public:

**FIRST SELECTWOMAN (*with RTM approval*)**

To hear, consider and act upon A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT FUNDS IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$24,830,536 AND APPROPRIATING **\$24,790,000** OF SAID FUNDS FOR COSTS RELATED TO VARIOUS PROJECTS

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the “ARPA”) was enacted, which includes \$1.6 billion in relief for local governments; and WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfield (the “Town”) is expected to receive a total of \$24,830,536 in ARPA funds from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (the “Recovery Fund Grant”); and

WHEREAS, to date, the Town has received \$12,415,283 of the Recovery Fund Grant with an additional \$12,415,283 expected to be received by June of 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to accept the Recovery Fund Grant and appropriate said funds for costs associated with the projects set forth in the attached Exhibit 1, in the amounts designated for each project as set forth in the Exhibit 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:

RESOLVED, that, the Town is authorized to accept the Recovery Fund Grant; and it is FURTHER

RESOLVED, that, **\$24,790,000** of the Recovery Fund Grant funds, subject to availability, be appropriated for costs associated with the projects set forth in the attached Exhibit 1, in the amounts designated for each project as set forth in the Exhibit 1; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the First Selectwoman is authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Chris DeWitt made a motion to put the new resolution of Item 3 before the BOF. Jack Testani seconded the motion.

Jim Walsh asked Town Attorney Jim Baldwin about the voting process and why it was changed from what had been discussed at the joint meeting in July. Town Attorney Baldwin said he consulted with the RTM and First Selectwoman Kupchick on how to proceed with the vote as this is an unprecedented and unique situation. He said they decided the best process of getting these appropriations approved was to follow the budget process. He said if the item is approved by the BOF it will then go to the RTM. Town Attorney Baldwin said the RTM can eliminate items, but not add items. He said if items are removed, the funding will stay in the account and can be replaced with other items if approved by the Town boards.

Mr. Brown called for a discussion regarding the list of items to be funded by ARPA. He said the list is included in the backup that is posted online. He said the BOF members had questions about many items on the list which were answered by department heads who requested the items for funding. The Board had a detailed discussion regarding the performance stage and public restrooms for the Fairfield Museum and History Center.

Ms. Charlton made an amendment to remove the \$450,000 for the History Center’s performance stage and public restrooms from the ARPA list at this time. Sheila Marmion seconded the amendment which failed 3-6-0 (Charlton, Marmion, Mitola in favor; Brown, DeWitt, Walsh, Testani, LeClerc and Fogel against).

The main motion carried unanimously.

4. To hear, consider and act upon any communications

Mr. Brown announced the next BOF meeting will be a Quarterly Review meeting on Wednesday, 9/29/21 at 7:30 pm. He said there will be another meeting on Tuesday, 10/5/21 at 7:30 pm.

5. Adjourn

David Fogel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm. Jim Walsh seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary

Exhibit 1  
Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and  
the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Project List

	Item	Proposed/ Approved	CIP	CapEx / OpEx	Cost
<b>Social Services &amp; Mental Health</b>					
	Non-profit Mental Health			OpEx	\$450,000
	COVID Recovery Assistance			OpEx	\$250,000
<b>Economic Development</b>					
	Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)			OpEx	\$175,000
	Downtown Resiliency - Permeable Surfacing			CapEx	\$1,420,000
<b>Public Safety</b>					
	Body Cam/Dash Cam/Tasers			OpEx	\$3,700,000
	Fire Station Rehabilitation	A	\$250k / yr	CapEx	\$500,000
	Fill Pile	P	\$3.3MM / yr (22, 23, 24)	CapEx	\$1,000,000
<b>Quality of Life: Recreation, Arts &amp; Culture</b>					
	Senior Center Renovation	P	\$850k (23)	CapEx	\$850,000
	Deck/patio behind senior center	P	\$100k (25)	CapEx	\$100,000
	Paving and Sidewalk Repair	P		Both	\$3,000,000
	Rooster River Detention Area	P	\$1.950MM (23)	CapEx	\$3,250,000
	Sidewalks - Southport and Stratfield	P		CapEx	\$700,000
	Jennings Beach Concession Upgrades	P	\$103k (24)	CapEx	\$100,000
	Tunxis Hill Park Playground	P	\$160k (23)	CapEx	\$150,000
	Melville Park Playground	P	\$150k (25)	CapEx	\$175,000
	Lincoln Park Playground Replacement	P	\$150k (24)	CapEx	\$150,000
	Dover Park Playground Replacement	P	\$150k (25)	CapEx	\$150,000
	Highwood Park Playground Replacement	P	\$250k (25)	CapEx	\$300,000
	Traffic Lights			CapEx	\$1,000,000

Performance Stage, Public Restrooms			CapEx	\$450,000
Fairfield Theatre Company - free outdoor concerts			CapEx	\$50,000
Golf Course Maintenance Equipment			CapEx	\$230,000
HVAC	P	\$600k/yr (26, 27)	CapEx	\$1,000,000

**Environment**

Electric/Hybrid Vehicles			OpEx	\$740,000
Electric Car Charging Stations			CapEx	\$200,000
Burr Historical Gardens			CapEx	\$25,000
High Intensity Wave and Erosion Damage & Resiliency Study			CapEx	\$400,000

**Town Modernization & Infrastructure**

Town-wide Guard Rail and Fencing	A	\$200k (22)	CapEx	\$200,000
Town and BOE Fiber Optic Network			CapEx	\$2,400,000
Perry's Green Bulkhead	P	\$1MM (22)	CapEx	\$1,000,000
ADA Consultant			OpEx	\$75,000
Diversity & Inclusion Consultant			OpEx	\$75,000
Hybrid Meeting Technology			CapEx	\$400,000
Digitizing Records (zoning, building, dpw)			CapEx	\$125,000

\$24,790,000

\*CIP: This project is currently included in the Capital Improvement Plan

\*OPEX: Operating Expenditure

\*CAPEX: Capital Expenditure

Projects in BOLD have been added since the publication of the initial list of projects