

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2022 @7:00 p.m.
Redding Community Center**

Present: First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, Selectwoman Peg O'Donnell, Selectman Michael Thompson, Town Clerk Michele Grande, Moderator Daniel Barrett, Minute taker Alice Smith, and remaining 261 voting members of the public (266 voters total).

Ms. Pemberton called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. She stated the first order of business was to elect a moderator of the meeting.

Motion: To nominate Daniel Barrett Moderator of the Special Town Meeting. Ward Mazzucco. Peg O'Donnell. Unanimous.

Mr. Barrett took control of the meeting and asked the Town Clerk to read the Warning of the meeting.

Motion to waive the reading of the Warning of the meeting. P. O'Donnell. William Brown. Unanimous.

Mr. Barrett briefed the public to consider and vote upon 11 items in total. The first 10 are for the funding of American Rescue Plan projects as reviewed by the American Rescue Plan Funds Working Group and recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Each project will be voted on separately.

The final item to consider and vote upon is the funding of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (OPEB), the total amount of \$300,000 from the unassigned fund balance for FY 2022-2023 as recommended by the OPEB Trust Board and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

I. ARPA Projects

A. ARPA Project: Georgetown Village Signs

Motion for use ARPA funding of up to \$15,000 for installation of signs as proposed by Georgetown Village Restoration Association, subject to state approval. Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Vote passes unanimously.

B. ARPA Project: Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton Improvements

Motioned and seconded for use of ARPA funding of up to \$100,000 for Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton improvements-\$80,000 in capital expenses and \$20,000 in non-capital expenses as detailed in the ARPA working group minutes of 06/23/22.

Some discussion followed. Public comment: Emily Fernandez (131 Old Redding Rd).

Moderator called for vote. Motion passed unanimously.

C. ARPA Project: Redding Grange #15 Construction & Improvements

Motion for use of ARPA funding of up to \$45,000 for construction and improvements at Redding Grange #15 to include an ADA compliant restroom, installation of air-conditioning and improvements to electrical wiring. Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

D. ARPA Project: Heritage Center Movable Wall

Motion for use ARPA funding up to \$60,000 for construction and installation of a moveable wall at The Heritage Center. Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

E. ARPA Project: Redding BOE “LOTS” (Life-long Learning, On-going Assessment, Teacher Training, Safe Spaces)

Motion for use of ARPA funding up to \$83,000 for the Redding Board of Education “LOTS” Program (Life-Long Learning, On-going Assessment, Teacher Training, Safe Spaces). Motion made and seconded. Some discussion.

Public comment(s): Joey Davey (Deacon Abbott), Emily Fernandez (Old Redding Rd.), Suzanne Romano, Kristen Anslett.

Motion passed unanimously.

F. ARPA Project: Topstone Park Improvements

Motion for use of ARPA funding up to \$150,000 for improvements at Topstone Park to be planned under direction of Park and Recreation Commission, subject to regulatory approvals, including recommendations made by the Planning Commission in its report and minutes dated 09/13/22. Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. ARPA Project: New Pond Farm Wetlands Restoration

Motion for use of ARPA funding of up to \$200,000 for restoration of wetlands project at New Pond Farm, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify. Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

H. ARPA Project: Mark Twain Library Patio

Motion for use of ARPA funding up to \$200,000 to support outdoor patio project at Mark Twain Library, with such terms and conditions the Board of Selectmen may specify. Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

I. ARPA Project: 2 Pickleball Courts, P&R

Motioned and seconded for use of ARPA funding of up to \$113,000 for construction and installation of two pickleball courts at Redding Community Center as proposed by Park and Recreation Commission and recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Discussion.

Public comment(s): Brenda Phelps (Indian Hill Road), Unknown (Lonetown Road), Rick Miller (Picketts Ridge Road), Tami O'Connor (Wood Road), Chris Parkin (Indian Hill Road), Kim Becker (Woods Way), Jeff Fligelman (Pocohontas), Sara O'Dell (Black Rock Tpke.), Unknown ?, Mary ?.

Motion passed with 128 yays, 52 nays (the rest abstained or did not raise hands).

J. ARPA Project: Joel Barlow High School Fields Improvement Project

Motion for use of ARPA funding of up to \$250,000 for Region 9 School District to undertake the Joel Barlow High School fields improvement project, with such terms and conditions the Board of Selectmen may specify. Motion was made and seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Trust

Motion: To consider and vote upon funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (OPEB) the total amount of \$300,000 from the unassigned fund balance for FY 2022-2023 as recommended by the OPEB Trust Board and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion made and seconded. No discussion. Some opposed. Motion passed.

Before moving to adjourn, member of the public requested that this goes into the record: that the door situation at RES get looked at by the Board of Education and the School Superintendent.

A thank you was directed to the ARPA Working Group.

Motion to adjourn. Ward Mazzucco. Peg O'Donnell. Unanimous.

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Alice Smith

**Note: Several members of the public made motions and seconded on each project – it was unable to determine individuals making the motions.*