

**SELECT BOARD RETREAT MINUTES  
JANUARY 24, 2022 AT 6:00PM  
SWAN LIBRARY, BECKER CAMPUS**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING**

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Second Vice-Chair Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman Dianna Provencher, Selectman Allen Phillips, and Town Administrator David Genereux were in attendance.

**FY23 CAPITAL FUNDING OPTIONS** – Mr. Genereux informed the Board that the Town was facing significant operating budget and capital issues due to non-excluded debt that has been accepted by the Town in recent years, including the Town's portion of the Waite Pond Dam grant (\$312,755), the road portion of the fire station pond project (\$344,080), and the school feasibility study (\$317,778). He further explained that the revised final rule of the local ARPA grant program, allows the entire grant, totaling \$3,318,370, to count as "revenue loss" under the new guidelines, which can be used to fund the Town operating budget and capital acquisitions. The revised final rule does not allow for funds to be used to reduce debt, or bolster savings.

Mr. Genereux further explained that the revised rules now give the Town options to invest beyond the narrow options offered initially. There is also likely to be larger amounts of ARPA funds available for infrastructure funding from the allocations of ARPA funding given the Commonwealth.

Mr. Genereux discussed spending a large amount of the remaining FY 21 free cash to eliminate the non-excluded debt amounts that were temporarily borrowed and using local ARPA funding for capital spending and other allowed uses. Items discussed included a new police cruiser, security cameras, a new ambulance, a bonus for first responders for their service during the pandemic, the road portion of the fire station pond project, a new Highway F550, and a new fire truck.

The Board discussed the crucial need to purchase a new ambulance, as the Town currently only has two older units doing calls at this time. Mr. Genereux explained that a Select Board vote is all that is needed to appropriate ARPA funds.

Mr. Genereux stated that he would bring a spending plan forward at a future meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 8:25 PM. **Motion carries 5-0-0.**