

**MINUTES PUBLIC HEARING  
ARPA COMMUNITY INPUT  
5:30 P.M. Thursday, May 5, 2022  
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM AND VIA ZOOM**

**Select Board**

Eric Remick, Chair  
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair – *Zoom*  
Elizabeth Dow  
Shari Cornish  
Danny Hale - *Zoom*

**Others Present**

David Upson, Town Manager  
Casey Rowell, Business Manager  
Nora Demuth  
Aya Kaufman  
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk  
Jerry Schneider

**Others Present**

Mike Lance  
Cheryl Michaels  
Annie Houston  
Heather Davis  
Nancy Kellogg  
Norma Wiesen

**5:30 P.M.** Select Board Chair, Eric Remick, called the ARPA Public Hearing to order.

**5:31 P.M.** Eric explained that ARPA stands for The American Rescue Plan Act which was established in 2021 and provides \$350 billion to state and local governments across the nation from the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Vermont received \$1.25 billion, and over \$200 million of that is being allocated to municipalities. ARPA can be spent on any “Government Services” which can include, but are not limited to, maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building new infrastructure. Please see the attached documents for more detail. Hardwick received about \$855,000 from ARPA.

Eric then explained existing projects that the Town is actively working on in which the funds that Hardwick has received could go towards. The Select Board is encouraging input from residents. The current ever-growing list includes wastewater plant upgrades, new Town Highway garage, Jeudevine Library expansion, Yellow Barn Business Accelerator, Swinging Bridge replacement, Fiber Internet expansion, Memorial Building roof renovations, and Town House roof replacement/renovations.

**5:35 P.M.** Eric opened the floor up to the audience for anyone who wants to speak.

Mike Lance from East Hardwick was present representing the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization. He shared their wish list (see attachments for complete list), which included items such as speed signs, sidewalks, and an engineering study for their water district.

Norma Wiesen spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission who would like to see the Town obtain a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). One has never been done in Hardwick. She shared that 60% of VT Towns have this document with many others working on obtaining it. She talked about the benefits of getting an NRI. See attachments for complete details.

Annie Houston spoke next. She was there as an NEKArts board member to talk about the needs of the Hardwick Town House. These needs include addressing fire escapes and accessibility issues. There is water damage to the side of the building. The building needs to be painted, as well as some grading and drainage work around the foundation. They do have some sources of money committed, but the original estimate came in at \$152,000 and with inflation, the latest estimate is now \$230,000. They are applying for grants and doing a capital campaign as well, but at this point, there are not enough funds for the project.

Nancy Kellogg asked about the process for deciding the ARPA spending besides these hearings. Eric explained that they sought out public opinion with these hearings, and later, the Select Board will need to prioritize the projects and make decisions about where the money will be spent. She talked briefly about areas such as composting, ones that affect the climate.

**6:00 P.M.** With no further comments from anyone, Select Board Chair, Eric Remick, adjourned the Public Hearing.

Minutes taken by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair