

ARPA minutes for 7/14/22

1. **Attendance:** Clrs Dave Adams, Gus Steeves, Mike Marketti. TM Michael McCall, Town Clerk Maddie Bonadies, Fire Chief Paul Normandin, Lt Steve Lavoie, Police Chief Shane Woodson.

2. **Minutes** for 6/16/22: Approved 2-0-1 (Steeves abstained).

3. **Minutes** for 5/19/22: Approved 3-0.

4. **Discuss requests as follows:**

Town Clerk Voting Machines: Ms Bonadies said the town has had old ones since 2004, she's seeking newest state-certified types. They're a lot faster (now process ~1 ballot/minute) and wants to start using them in 2023 (can't train in time for fall elections). Total = \$48K, rounded to \$50K.

Recreation Morris St courts: Withdrawn.

Library Patch & Cables: Will be revamped to upgrade to fiber optic lines, but need to get more details. Original request determined not to be worth the cost.

FD Mental Health Wellness: Normandin talked to Harrington for a 1st responder MH program. Contacted CT vendor; need program tailored to 1st responders, but only ones he knows of are in CA. Postponed by chief for more information.

FD/PD P25 (Digital) Radios: Normandin said they've been “band-aiding the radio system together” for years, most are P25 capable, but using analog (Some in PD date to 1990s). PD needs 17 (has bought 40 in recent years), FD needs 5; both have \$20K in capital for radios & batteries/year (plan to cycle out 5/yr).

Harrington radio site “needs pretty big upgrades to work with new digital system;” Lavoie noted they have trouble with it. Also looking to upgrade tower at PD and MHS. Goal = to have all transmitters work at same time around town. Normandin said command radios = \$9K each. They intend to have the yearly capital replace individual radios, parts, etc; this \$161K request will make “the system work in synch,” and radios will know where each other is. Current analog cuts in and out, has a lot of interference (including from solar fields and home-grow lights), and can be heard on public scanners, but digital will find the best signal, no static, can be encrypted, and is only heard by 40% of scanners.

Adams asked about maintenance costs. Normandin said they last 3-5 yrs and have warranties. Lavoie noted the industry is trying to shift to annual software subscription fees, but these are not that type.

PD Kennel: Woodson they now have \$350K committed to project, needs \$450-500K. Will bring engineer to Council for presentation in August. Has been in progress ~12 yrs, and wants to start in fall. School district has approved location near CSS; moving to airport or WWTP will increase cost. Mr McCall noted it's ready to bid now.

Drug Task Force: Aiming to have various speakers at MHS, including Chris Herren (\$5-8K); various community health groups are involved and they're working to track ODs and recovery. Less than \$5K remains from the funds Council approved a couple years ago.

All items were recommended unanimously.

Adams said these items total \$561K, and we've allocated \$3.6M of ARPA funds to date. About \$1.4M remains.

5. **Next meeting:** 8/11/22. We'll look at DPW and an ambulance, among other things.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gus Steeves
Councilor*