ARPA Ad-hoc Committee Executive Summary

This executive summary will serve as a supplemental document to explain the final municipal project assessments and recommended priority list (which are those projects that have not been encumbered up to this point) completed by the ARPA Ad-hoc Committee (ARPA Committee).

The attached municipal recommended priority list has passed a vote of the ARPA Committee to be considered as the most important municipal projects that the Committee recommends be considered for final funding decision by the Board of Selectmen. The 17 projects totaling an estimated $3,423,781.00 were carefully considered. Each project was submitted via its own ARPA application and each project was presented by the appropriate town representative to both introduce, describe, and justify the request. Each ARPA Committee member rank-ordered the list of municipal projects with the goal of staying within the remaining ARPA budget for municipal projects which was $2,207,906.00. Those individual rankings were then averaged together to produce a joint, finalized team recommended list which is shown below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Description | Cost |
| Town Hall Roof - Part 2 | $ 321,460.00 |
| 70" Tower/Highland Woods | $ 390,000.00 |
| Family Empowerment - Year 2 | $ 9,059.00 |
| Town Hall HVAC/heat pumps - Part 3 | $ 415,000.00 |
| Grant program | $ 100,600.00 |
| Field Irrigation | $ 250,724.00 |
| Equipment/Apparatus for new vehicles | $ 124,444.00 |
| Catch Basins/New Parking Lot | $ 190,000.00 |
| 800 mhz radio system upgrade | $ 36,000.00 |
| Police Expansion | $ 228,000.00 |
| Norton Park | $ 141,061.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 2,206,348.00** |

Along with delivering the final team recommendations for the municipal projects, the ARPA Committee also wanted to offer additional commentary on this list:

* The ARPA Committee did not have final quotes for all the ARPA municipal projects. The Committee made recommendations on the best information that was provided.
* The ARPA Committee added an encumbered line item of $100,000 in contingency funds based on the previous bullet point. It was important to account for the potential overages based on project estimations. If the contingency funds are not fully used, the ARPA Committee recommends those funds become reallocated to a social services program to benefit the townspeople of Colchester.
* There was an encumbered dollar amount totaling $15,000 that was originally approved for the Affordable Housing Plan. Because there was a state grant that compensated for the $15,000, this dollar amount is now back to a non-encumbered status. It is the ARPA Committee’s recommendation that this dollar figure be added to the $100,000 contingency fund allocation to account for ARPA project overages, or used for needed social services programs.
* The youth center ARPA Application in the amount of $500,000 was not recommended based on a team majority that it did not qualify under the mandatory criteria of the ARPA application review and recommendation process. The reason is that there was no plan or justification for the dollar figure requested. The ARPA Committee did agree that a youth center is desperately needed and should be pursued by the town with a plan for proper location, thorough cost estimates, and community input.
* Aside from the youth center, the five other complete project applications have been deemed worthy of funding should the Board of Selectmen find alternative funding sources.

Sincerely,

**The ARPA Committee**

Dave Koji, Chair

Greg Barden, Vice Chair

Jenn Cox

Jack Faski

Denise Mizla

Marge Mlodzinski

Stan Soby