

Town of Maggie Valley
Special Called Board of Aldermen Meeting
April 19, 2022
MINUTES

Members Present: Mayor Mike Eveland, Aldermen: Tammy Wight, John Hinton, Jim Owens, and Alderman Phillip Wight arrived at 9:17 am.

Staff Present: Manager Nathan Clark, Finance Director Shayne Wheeler, and Town Clerk Vickie Best

Others Present: Reporters Kathy Ross and Hannah Mcleod

1. **Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Eveland called the Special Called Meeting to order at 9:00 am on Tuesday April 19, 2022, in the Town Hall Boardroom. The purpose of the Special Called Meeting is to amend the police car purchase order and to discuss new ARPA updates regarding Standard Deduction.

2. **Consideration of Amending Police Car Purchase Order**

At the August 17, 2021, Board of Aldermen meeting Council approved the purchase of two 2021 Dodge Chargers V-6 AWD for a total price of \$55,278 (\$27,639 per vehicle) by a 5-0 vote.

The FY 21-22 Budget allocated \$62,516 for police vehicle purchases.

In January 2022, the Town received one of its 2021 Dodge Chargers.

In early April, the Town was notified that it would not be receiving its second 2021 Dodge Charger; however, a 2022 Dodge Charger V-6 AWD "off the lot" could be purchased for \$29,679.

Purchasing this Dodge Charger would reflect a \$2,000 price increase to what the Board had approved in August.

The new police car purchase bundle would be \$57,318 which is still \$5,198 under the original FY21-22-line-item budget.

Alderman P. Wight asked if the exchange of a 2021 Dodge Charger to a 2022 Dodge Charger would bring the Police Department up on the fleet rotation? Chief Gilliland responded that he has ideas on how to maximize the fleet. Chief Gilliland would like a blend of SUVs and Sedans. There were quality issues with the Ford Interceptor. The Police Department will surplus one Ford Explorer.

On another note, a twenty-year old dump truck was declared surplus and brought almost the original purchase price.

ALDERMAN T. WIGHT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE UPGRADE FROM A 2021 DODGE CHARGER TO A 2022 DODGE CHARGER DUE TO THE DELAY IN SHIPMENTS FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$29,679 THAT IS STILL UNDER BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **ARPA Update: "Standard Deduction"**

Director Wheeler recently attended an all-day online seminar regarding the ARPA Funds and how those funds should be managed. The ARPA Funds continue to have evolving regulations.

- State of NC allocated \$5.4 billion

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- Counties and twenty-six metropolitan cities allocated \$2B and \$668M respectively directly from UST
- Non-entitlement units (municipalities) allocated \$705M through the State
- Special purpose governments not allocated but may receive funds from the State allocation
- Funds delivered in two tranches, one in 2021, second in 2022

Communities getting less than \$10 million can elect to take a standard deduction. Maggie Valley will receive close to \$400,000. Therefore, a standard deduction is Maggie Valley's best option. Infrastructure and premium pay are still allowable uses.

Now there are more allowable uses for the ARPA funds and the rules continue to change. Most communities have been hesitant to spend the funds. The United States Treasury is getting nervous for the lack of spending of the ARPA funds. With the April 30, 2022, reporting deadline, we need to declare how we plan to spend the funds. The simplest option at this time is salaries. The declaration of funds is not a commitment, but a placeholder.

How Can We Use ARPA Dollars?

Provide premium pay for essential workers - offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.

Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure - making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

What Should You Do?

ARPA funds represent an opportunity for substantial change

Determine the best and highest use

Leverage State dollars when possible

Funds must only be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026

The Town is currently seeking grant funding to fix the Levee at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and to remove all aerial creek-crossings.

Salaries are a popular tool being used as a placeholder among the entities. Currently, it is the simplest placeholder.

Due to applying for grant funding for two major Sewer Capital Improvements Projects (CIP), Director Wheeler was uncomfortable using the same CIP for the ARPA Funds.

The US Treasury Department has mentioned taking the unallocated funds back.

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Mayor Eveland concurred, explaining that the monies came through the State and then were distributed to counties and municipalities. Each entity now has a pot of money, and the Treasury wants something down with the money within a frame of guidelines.

Alderman Owens stated that he would pick the simplest placeholder rather than a complicated placeholder. Alderman T. Wight agreed. The Town should be notified if the grants are awarded for the levee and the creek-crossings within months.

The consensus was to allow salaries to be a placeholder until more questions have been answered.

The closed session was not conducted.

4. Closed Session: § 143-318.11(a)(5) Closed session - Real Estate "Old Still Road Waterfall" Properties

5. Open Session: The Board of Aldermen may take formal action on items discussed during closed session regarding the sale of Old Still Road Waterfall Properties

6. Adjournment

ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN T. WIGHT, WITH ALL IN FAVOR, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:28 AM.



Mayor Mike Eveland



Vickie Best, CMC, Town Clerk