

**Finance Committee**

**10/5/2022**

**Topic: ARPA funds review – police department**

**Local option tax**

**Capital improvement fund**

**Members present:** Davis, Savage, Talbott, Whitcomb

**Others present:** Mayor Allaire, President Doenges, Alderman Franco, Alderman Gillam, Alderman Depoy, Joe Barbagallo, Andrew Strniste, Chief Kilcullen, Treasurer Markowski, Gordon Dritschilo

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

The meeting opened with Chief Kilcullen reviewing the police department ARPA requests. Chief Kilcullen shared that the cost of the HVAC request had increased to \$200,000. He noted that work could not begin until next year at the earliest. Chief Kilcullen explained that it would cost approximately \$25,000 to heat with heat pumps the current dispatch space, which was the most immediate need. Alderwoman Savage asked if it was possible to move the dispatch location. Chief Kilcullen explained that the layout of the police station made it impossible to relocate dispatch. Alderwoman Davis inquired if there was any assistance or incentives available through state sponsored heating programs. Chief Kilcullen outlined possible assistance/incentives that existed. Alderman Barbagallo asked if the full upgrade to the HVAC system would allow for the heat pumps to be moved into a different location that may be in need. It was explained that likely the heat pumps would remain after the full upgrade. Chief Kilcullen stated that the full need would be approximately \$250,000.

Chief Kilcullen next outlined the request for covid premium pay for non-sworn police department staff in the amount of \$24,000. Chief Kilcullen highlighted that non-sworn employees were unable to work from home throughout covid and required to be on location.

Chief Kilcullen discussed the parking kiosk request and indicated that the direction had changed with the thought of utilizing the park mobile service. This would mean that the total request had reduced from \$150,000 to \$100,000.

Chief Kilcullen discussed the ADA compliance request and the upgrades that have already been performed. Chief Kilcullen outlined that \$60,000 is the request currently but that estimate may be outdated at this point.

Chief Kilcullen discussed the request for IT infrastructure upgrades. He described the work that has already been done toward upgrades. Chief Kilcullen explained that the request is \$100,000 currently.

Chief Kilcullen described the request for upgrades to the dispatch stations. The amount of the request is \$60,000.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on capital improvement program. Andrew Strniste provided an overview of the capital improvement program that was implemented in Underhill, Vermont as an example to the committee. The information provided to the committee is attached to this report. Alderwoman Davis described to the committee the historical context of capital improvement and the challenge had always been in finding the funding source. Mayor Allaire inquired what the flexibility within a capital improvement program would be. Andrew explained that a capital improvement



program was not a binding document but that it was important to be able to predict which projects would be in line to be addressed. Alderman Whitcomb asked if a capital improvement program and its funding source would have to go to the voters. Andrew explained that the funding source would have to likely be voted on if it was added to the tax rate. Alderwoman Savage inquired if there was a benefit to having a state recognized capital improvement program. Andrew noted that there may be benefits through potential access to grant funds. No formal action was taken on the formal creation of a capital improvement fund and the item remains open in committee.

The final item addressed was the local option tax. Treasurer Markowski provided an overview of the information distributed to the committee; the information is attached to this report. Treasurer Markowski explained that Rutland could maintain the Rooms, Entertainment, and Meals tax as well as the local option tax. It was noted that there are approximately 10 businesses in the City of Rutland that would be subjected to the Rooms, Entertainment, and meals tax as well as the local option tax. Alderman Depoy inquired how we could remove the 10 businesses that could be subject to both taxes. Alderwoman Davis noted that it would be important to know the financial impact to the business subjected to both taxes. The committee discussed altering the language to the charter outlining which businesses are subjected to the REM taxes. Alderman Barbagollo inquired if there was a way to determine how much of the revenue generated from the local option tax would be generated from non-home owners. Alderman Talbott highlighted to the committee that the downtown partnership had information that described who shops in the downtown. No formal actions were taken regarding the local option tax. It was noted that a future meeting will be scheduled including interested stakeholders.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.