

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Zoom  
January 10, 2022 — 7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Kevin Cwikla, Selectmen Kathleen Smith, Betsy Petrie-McComber, and Mark DeCaprio

**Others Present:** Hayley Wagner (Finance Director); Bernard Dennler (Office Manager to First Selectman); Jay Schall (LVFD); Diane Malozzi (Board of Finance); residents Valerie Belles, Dennis Cronin, Lynn Legary, Frank Hoisl

**1.0 Call to Order**

K. Cwikla called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**2.0 Public hearing on ARPA funds**

K. Cwikla made a brief presentation about the American Rescue Plan Act which has given municipalities a direct allocation in federal grant funds which can be used for general government services to replace revenue lost during the COVID19 pandemic, support the public health response to the pandemic, address negative economic impacts, expand broadband and fiber optic access, and invest in water and sewer infrastructure. The Town of Lebanon is set to receive about \$2 million under ARPA. Separate funding under the act is also available for schools. The Selectmen's goal is to use the funds to maximize successful one-time investments and limit introducing new recurring expenses.

Valerie Belles spoke about how the law also makes funding available to businesses and non-profits and that childcare is an eligible category. She said Lebanon Kids may need funding to continue some of its operations and suggested the Town make ARPA funds available to this organization which serves many Lebanon parents and families.

Dennis Cronin, 320 Babcock Hill Road, spoke in favor of using ARPA funds to support efforts to control invasive weeds at Lake Williams. He said he does not own property on the lake but considers it a valuable natural and recreational resource in the town.

Lynn Legary, 178 Seabury Road, stated she is a home daycare provider and said there is a septic that needs to be repaired. She said it would affect her business if the septic were to fail and said she would seek ARPA funds if they were available. She also spoke in favor of funding for Lebanon Kids.

Frank Hoisl, 44 Deepwood Drive, spoke as president of the Amston Lake District to suggest investing some funds in stormwater infrastructure. He offered to share data the district has already collected on stormwater infrastructure needs.

LVFD Chief Jay Schall presented regarding the department's request for ARPA funds for a Town-wide radio upgrade project. He said the technology the department currently uses for its radios is being sunset and the department can no longer replace or repair radios. The department has been using a low band radio system since 1960. The low band system is going away and is no longer supported by most manufacturers. There is a lack of interoperability between fire and police. There are also coverage issues. The LVFD is proposing that the Town join the CT Land Mobile Radio Network. This would cost less than the Town building its own new system and would give interoperability with other users in the state. It would improve coverage to western and southeastern parts of Lebanon. He suggested the Board of Selectmen form a Radio Advisory Committee with designees from LVFD, DPW, Police, Emergency Management, Fire Marshal's Office, Schools, and the Selectman's Office.

Diane Malozzi, Board of Finance, said she supports the radio upgrade program. She said the entire town will benefit from the upgrade.

K. Smith asked if there are other grants the Town could use to fund the radio upgrade to offset some costs and save some ARPA funds for other uses. J. Schall said in March they may know about a grant available in the state for radio upgrades.

### **3.0 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernard W. Dennler III  
Office Manager to the First Selectman