



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Councillor-at-Large McDonald, Chair
Councillor Condon, Vice-Chair
Councillor O'Malley
Councillor-at-Large Colon-Hayes
Councillor Simonelli
Councillor Linehan

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

5:30 PM

CityHall, Room #105

215 Pleasant Street

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Councillor at Large Carey McDonald, Ryan O'Malley, Karen Colon Hayes and Amanda Linehan

Absent: 2 - Councillor Paul Condon and Chris Simonelli

Also Present:

Zaheer Samee-Legal Dept

Maria Luise-Mayor's Office

Councillor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Minutes to be Approved

[93-23](#)

Minutes of February 28, 2023 to be approved.

Business

[58-23](#)

The Finance committee will meet with Ron Hogan, Chief Strategy Officer and Stephanie Muccini Burke, ARPA Coordinator for discussion and ARPA update.

Attachments: [Burke ARPA Update 3723](#)

[Finance ARPA Power Point Handout 323](#)

Ron Hogan, Chief Strategy Officer and Stephanie Mucini Burke, ARPA Director start the presentation.

Ron explained the impact we have all been able to have in the community with this once in a lifetime opportunity to have access to the amount of federal funds but you want to find balance when using the funds of how you impact the community. They have prepared a power point presentation and also a five page comprehensive memo for the Council which gives more detail line item by line item.(see attached) Communities that got these large ARPA awards because of CDBG entitlement recognized the importance of having the right resources in place for compliance reporting and managing this money. That is part of why we hired Stephanie Muccini-Burke, ARPA Director to manage this program. This is a very honourous process. Stephanie said that all of this will be uploaded to our ClearGov site as well as their documents for anyone who would like to review it. The City of Malden got \$45.7 mill dollars in two separate buckets, CDBG and since Middlesex County was defunct we were able to garner money from the County Fund

as well. American Rescue Plan Act guidance was passed in 2021. There is ARPA Compliance and Reporting which occurs quarterly. There is a reporting guidance paper which is about 200 pages and a project and user guide every quarter and it changes from quarter to quarter. This is very time consuming as every piece has to be input. They keep changing the way you have to do reporting. There are some funds we give out to sub-recipients which are third party groups which are doing the governments work. One is Housing Families who are purely a sub-recipient who is doing work on our behalf. There are a lot more regulations and documentation that goes into the monies given to them as opposed to some of the straight up ARPA allotments. They have to do the same reporting as us through us.

Councillor McDonald asked in terms of Compliance what is the potential penalty for not complying with Federal requirements

Stephanie said it is similar to CDBG they could take the money back.

Councillor Linehan asked how did we decide what to allocate in each bucket to begin with Ron said it was the desire to try to get moving fast not wait a year. We tried to come up with a reasonable starting point and made reallocations along the way.

Councillor O'Malley asked how much has been spent and how much is left

Stephanie said \$31.3 mill is obligated and out of the \$47 Mill

Councillor O'Malley asked if there is money set aside that could be used for signalization. Should we start throwing things out there

Ron said yes you could start throwing things out and Stephanie said if projects are in a qualified census tract we can use the monies if it is outside of that you would have to see if the Citywide funds or revenue replacement accounts would kick in. People have gotten caught up with it being all public health related. The whole concept of ARPA was to positively impact the community come back from this horrible time.

Stephanie said Covid impacted public health with obesity and other health issues so we see activities making people healthier and we see that as a very good use of funding.

Councillor McDonald asked if there is a single standard for types of projects that qualify for use of ARPA funds or is there one standard for CDBG, one for the County funds.

Stephanie said the County and the City funds are all in one bucket all those regulations.

She continued with the presentation and said the Transparency Center has every request and the background of the project. She said when thinking about ARPA over the past few months they have been thinking about the impact it has had on the community.

Clearly what Malden has done has been beneficial across the City and the board and has done an amazing job. They thought impact instead of keeping it in committees they

looked at it in six categories of impact throughout. Infrastructure-the city fleet etc.,

Mission-non profits, People-parks and activities, Activities-keeping people moving,

Community-keep it strong and resilient as we can and all of that is Transformational.

Councillor McDonald asked if we used any of the CARES Act money to upgrade the HVAC systems in the schools as well as ARPA funds.

Ron said yes some of the CARES Act money went towards the inside units upgrades and the ARPA money was used towards the rooftop units.

Councillor Colon-Hayes asked when is the cut-off date where we switch gears and spend this money

Stephanie said they have been thinking around June of 2024. She finishes the presentation by saying everything that has happened is transformational. Many communities are plugging up budget deficits with their monies. These are one time funds and once it's gone it's gone. As everything grows in a couple of years and there is no more ARPA money think of those dollars now are blown up expedientially. Malden has not done this and is using the money for projects that are going to be lasting and have done a great job. She thanks all the committee members that have played a role in this. The department heads are the go to's for starting ideas. It is the residents, Councillors and Department Heads that work together it has been a great collaboration.

Stephanie said if you go onto the ClearGov site you can click on any links to find out

*about the projects. All the papers and approvals are on that site also. The link is on the City of Malden website.
Ron said we will look into creating a quick link to get into that site.*

Other Business

Tabled Papers

[381-22](#)

Minutes of June 14, 2022 to be approved.

Adjournment

Due to the absence of a quorum Councillor McDonald, Chair of Finance adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.