

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

OCTOBER 4, 2021

Moderator: Hank Martin

Clerk: Mary Anne Greene

Vote Record

First Selectman, Jim Brinton welcomed everyone and requested nominations for a moderator. Motion by Dean Sarjeant to nominate Hank Martin as moderator, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved. Motion by Jay Hubelbank to close nominations with second by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved. Moderator Hank Martin called the meeting to order at 7:31p.m. and Clerk Mary Anne Greene read the warning:

WARNING: The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:

- 1) To set the dates for the annual Town Budget Hearing and annual Town Budget Meeting in May 2022.
- 2) To approve American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund requests.

Dated at Washington, Connecticut this 14th day of September 2021.

James L. Brinton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant: Board of Selectmen

RESOLVED: To set the Annual Town Budget Hearing for May 5, 2022 and the Annual Town Budget Meeting for May 19, 2022. Motion made by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Before proceeding with the other items on the agenda, Hank Martin asked Sheila Anson, Town Clerk, to explain who was eligible to vote in the event a paper ballot was called for. In order to vote on any of the items, a person must be a registered voter and/or a taxpayer.

RESOLVED: To approve \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act, which will be combined with State and Federal grants to the Housatonic Valley Association, for the repair/replacement of the culvert near the intersection of Cook Street and Route 109. Motion made by Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

RESOLVED: To approve \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act for upgrades to the Salem Church to create an emergency shelter. Motion made by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank.

Moderator introduced Town Attorney, Randy DiBella, and his availability to address any questions of legality.

Discussion by:

Andrew Carron - 58 Gunn Hill Road

Rebecca Rebillard - 26 Tompkins Hill Road

Lewis Pinney 23 Cook Street

Linda Williams – 98 Baldwin Hill Road

Andrew Carron – 58 Gunn Hill Road (Attorney DiBella response)

Diana Tagley – 42 Sabbaday Lane (Attorney DiBella response)

Diana Tagley – 42 Sabbaday Lane

Cathy Carron – 58 Gunn Hill Road

Richard Schlossberg – 36 Hifield Drive

Linda McGarr – 64 Dark Entry Road

Phyllis Allen – 40 Quarry Ridge Road

Julie Fredlund – 257 Bee Brook Road

Diana Tagley – 42 Sabbaday Lane

Richard Schlossberg – 36 Hifield Drive

The motion passed by majority of a show of hands.

RESOLVED: To approve \$5800 (fifty-eight hundred dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act for emergency mental health treatment at High Watch Recovery Facility for a Town of Washington employee. Motion made by Jim Brinton, seconded by Mary Anne Greene. Discussion: Judy Gorra of 12 Winston Drive. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act to purchase the Ericson Insurance Building on Bee Brook Road, which will be combined with a pledge of \$250,000 and Washington Ambulance Association fundraising. Made by Jim Brinton, seconded by Sheila Anson.

Discussion:

Linda McGarr – 64 Dark Entry Road

Valerie Andersen – 171 Blackville Road

Jay Hubelbank - 236 Woodbury Road

Andrew Carron – 58 Gunn Hill Road (Attorney DiBella response)

Linda Williams – 98 Baldwin Hill Road

Richard Schlossberg – 36 Hifield Drive

Adam Woodruff – 151 Litchfield Drive

Keith Templeton – 9 Golf Course Road

Valerie Andersen – 171 Blackville Road

Linda McGarr – 64 Dark Entry Road

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:21p.m.

Information provided by Mary Anne Greene, Clerk

I, Sheila Silvernail, certify to the best of my ability the foregoing is an accurate vote record based on information provided of the Town of Washington's Annual Town Meeting on October 4, 2021.



Dated at Washington, CT this 6th day of October 2021.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2021

Moderator: Hank Martin

Clerk: Mary Anne Greene

Minutes/Transcript

First Selectman, Jim Brinton welcomed everyone and requested nominations for a moderator. Motion by Dean Sarjeant to nominate Hank Martin as moderator, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved. Motion by Jay Hubelbank to close nominations with second by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved. Moderator Hank Martin called the meeting to order at 7:31p.m. and Clerk Mary Anne Greene read the warning:

Moderator: [Announced Washington Harvest Festival for public interest and called meeting to order.] Welcome to the Annual Town Meeting. Mary Anne, you're the Clerk tonight. Would you please read the Warning?

Clerk: Warning: The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:

- 1) To set the dates for the annual Town Budget Hearing and annual Town Budget Meeting in May 2022.
- 2) To approve American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund requests.

Dated at Washington, Connecticut this 14th day of September 2021.

James L. Brinton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant
Board of Selectmen

Moderator: Thank you Mary Anne. Okay, so, we have five Resolutions tonight. One, setting the time for the Annual Budget Meeting, Budget Town Meeting next May. And then in order to approve the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, A-R-P-A. [Unintelligible] each one of them we're going to vote separately on, four separate resolutions, four separate votes. So, for each of those five resolutions, after the resolution is made, we'll need to have it seconded and then we'll have a discussion and then we'll have a vote. In the discussion period, after the Resolution is explained, typically by the First Selectman, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, vote [unintelligible; background noise]. Please raise your hand and I will recognize you. When recognized please state your name and your street address. Please do this even if we think we know you for the benefit of the Clerk who will be typically looking down at what she's doing. The discussion period will continue until you're finished, until there's no more hands raised, or until one of you make a motion to end discussion, which is then

approved by all of you. This is known as “moving” or “calling the question.” So that’s how we’re going to operate tonight, that’s how we always operate, Parliamentary rules, Robert’s Rules. So on to the first item, and the first resolution. Jim, would you please make it?

J. Brinton: Resolved: To set the Annual Town Budget Hearing for May 5, 2022 and the annual Town Budget Meeting for May 19, 2022.

Moderator: Could I have a second on that?

J. Hubelbank: Second.

Moderator: Jay has seconded it. May 19, 2022, that’s a Thursday, FYI. Any questions on that? Any discussion? Are we ready to vote on it?

Male: Yes.

Moderator: Okay. Before we vote tonight, because this is going to be true for all five motions, I’d like to ask Sheila [Anson], if she would come up here and just explain who has voting privileges and who doesn’t. I could tell you, but it sounds a lot better from Sheila [Town Clerk].

S. Anson: I just came from a Park and Rec Commission meeting over at the Pavilion, so some of us are layered up here. If you, if we’re going to go to a paper ballot this evening, if you are a registered voter, you can vote, and you will be checked off by our Registrar of Voters. If you are not registered to vote, but you are a taxpayer – you, any subdivision for taxes assessed against him on assessment of not less than 1,000.00 dollars, on the last completed Grand List of such Town, which would be October 1, 2020. – the taxpayers have to be in their name. If you are a Trust or if you are in a LLC, you cannot vote because that’s as according to the statutes, you have to be an individual. Here we go. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you, Sheila. So oversimplified, if you’re a voter in town, you can vote. If you a resident of town, you can vote. If you own property in town, and pay taxes, and are a taxpayer in town, directly – not through an LLC or any other entity – you can vote. Okay, we have our first motions setting the date of the Annual Budget Town Meeting for May 19, made and seconded. There was no discussion, so I think you told me you’re ready to vote. All in favor of that date for the Annual Town Budget Meeting, May 19, 2022, please say aye.

Multiple Voices: Aye.

Moderator: Any opposed?

Audience: [silence]

Moderator: Okay, Resolution Number 1 carries. Resolution Number 2?

J. Brinton: Resolved: To approve \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act which would combine the state and federal grants to the Housatonic Valley Association for the repair and replacement of the culvert near the intersection of Cook Street and Route 109.

D. Sarjeant: I'll second that.

Moderator: Okay, we have a motion that's been seconded. Any discussion on the money from the ARPA funds to repair the culverts? Are we ready to vote? All in favor of Motion Number 2 which Jimmy just read and Dean just seconded, please say aye.

Multiple Voices: Aye.

Moderator: Any opposed, any abstentions?

Audience: [silence]

Moderator: Motion carries. On to Number 3.

J. Brinton: Resolved: To approve \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act for upgrades to the Salem Church to create an emergency shelter.

Moderator: Could I have a second to that motion?

J. Hubelbank: I'll second.

Moderator: We have a motion that's been seconded with regard to Resolution Number 3. Any discussion on this one? Looking for hands. Okay, Dean is going to get the microphone over to everybody. If you could stand up at your seat and then use the mic and then state your name and your street address and then go ahead.

A. Carron: My name is Andrew Carron, 58 Gunn Hill Road. I wonder if someone could give us a little bit more information about what the money is going to be spent on, how it'll be used, details of the Memorandum of Understanding and so forth?

Moderator: Okay that sounds certainly reasonable. Jim, before I ask you to handle that, I would like to introduce a guest here tonight. Our Town Attorney, Randy DiBella, is here. Randy, could you just? So, if any quick questions come up of a legal nature, I think we're prepared to handle them. Thank you for being here Randy. Now Jim would handle that particular question?

J. Brinton: Thanks Andrew. So, to your question about where the money's going to go, it is primarily for an emergency generator with the remainder of the funds to go towards a refurb of the kitchen to bring that facility up to date. There's more to this project than this \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars). Quite a bit more. The

impetus for this was, not entirely from the pandemic, but it caused us to reach out to emergency services as well as town officials to say, the Town Hall, for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the kitchen, but the fact that it's a seat of government, is not suitable as an emergency shelter especially during the time of pandemic. And emergency services building, the firehouse, is completely inappropriate due to parking and the fact that in the event of an emergency those are the busiest people. So, I reached out to Pastor Linda and we've been working with the Red Cross. We worked with the Town Attorney to vet these as appropriate uses of the funds. And the M-O-U, Andrew would require a five-year term, with an option for the town for an additional five years, and the church was very agreeable to that. So, I hope that answers your questions there.

Moderator: Looking for more questions?

Male: Andrew's got a follow up?

Moderator: Okay.

A. Carron: If I could follow up. Let me just give you a couple of questions rather than going back and forth. Did you consider other facilities in town? Will the church be able to use, for example, the generator, that the town is partly paying for? And who will pay for maintenance for the generator?

J. Brinton: So, part of the M-O-U is the town would put the generator on its maintenance policy and that's roughly \$400 (four hundred dollars) a year. In the event of a power outage, it would automatically go on, so it would be open. It would just depend on when we open the shelter. And we did look at other facilities, Andrew. All kind of, you know, Congregational Church is great but there's no parking. We looked at a variety of other facilities that just didn't meet the criteria. People mentioned the Legion Hall. That building's not appropriate at all to be housing people in a crisis situation. So yeah, we did look at other facilities.

Moderator: To the front, my far right. Yes?

R. Rebillard: Rebecca Rebillard, 26 Tompkins Hill. Why wouldn't the school be an appropriate place to put these funds in to retrofit for an emergency shelter?

J. Brinton: Thanks Rebecca. Region 12?

R. Rebillard: Either, yeah, any of the schools in Region 12.

J. Brinton: Again, in the event of an emergency we're not going to be able to comeingle with kids. And that's a regional—

R. Rebillard: If it's an emergency why would there be kids in the building?

J. Brinton: I think it depends on the emergency. They were out there through the entire pandemic that was an emergency.

R. Rebillard: But did we need to shelter anybody during this pandemic?

J. Brinton: During [unintelligible] we were out for, depending on where you live, five to eight days. No, no winter storm [unintelligible].

R. Rebillard: Okay.

Moderator: Looking for hands.

Moderator: Let's go this side. Anybody on this side? Okay we got one here on the third row. Name?

L. Pinney: Lewis Pinney, 38 Cook Street. Just a question because I was looking at this and there's a Resolution to buy the Ericson building. Would there be any possibility that would be room for an emergency shelter in that? Just a quick question.

J. Brinton: That goes to the same reason I said before. If we were to, if that purchase were to go through, it would house our Ambulance Association. And again, we don't want to mix civilians with the emergency services in a crisis.

Moderator: Yes?

L. Williams: I'm Linda Williams, 98 Baldwin Hill Road, here in Washington Depot, and I serve as the Pastor at Salem Covenant Church. And just as Jim said we have been working collaboratively with the Red Cross disaster relief [unintelligible] and with the emergency [unintelligible] managers. Some of the things that we looked at with our building is that we realized as a church building we have a prime facility to house a number of people especially during the weekdays when our building doesn't have much use. Some other things that we've discovered is on our side of the hill, up the hill, it's, that whole area tends to lose power on a regular basis. Probably more often than this but I'd have to check with that, with Jim, I don't know. But we don't know, again from the top, from New Preston down here, you have to go up and down hill, so we were also looking at that. But in addition to all these things, the primary emphasis for us as a church is we saw that we have an incredibly valuable asset that we wanted to share with the community. And we've seen this as a need in the last couple of years with different power outages and so, we want to be good neighbors. I think I want to add to what Jim has already said that once the building becomes, declared an emergency shelter, this is not something that we have control over. We actually will have a team of eight people developing policies so it will be a collaborative effort with the town. So, the town will have 'X' number of people and this church will have 'X' number of people. And in that time period we will be an emergency shelter. And it will be the town that

declares us one and the town that declares us no longer one. If any of you have ever been up to our church, you'll find that we have ample parking, handicap accessible facilities, plenty of space for children and youth to play, a clean and exceptionally large kitchen, a place to walk pets, bathrooms. And it's just as I said earlier, just a really nice, ideal space for large gatherings. And we just thought we would be helping to meet the need that we saw here in the community.

Moderator: Thank you very much. I'm looking for more hands. More questions, comments, pro or con?

A. Carron: One more, sorry.

Moderator: Yes. You're just about out of your allotment.

Audience: [laughter]

A. Carron: Okay, so this may be a question for the lawyer. When I read these—

Moderator: Excuse me, I'll decide that, okay? Make, ask your question to me.

A. Carron: I said that may be.

Moderator: All right.

A. Carron: When I viewed the requirements for qualification for ARPA funds, all of the categories, well, all but one of the categories are to respond to negative effects caused by COVID-19. So, you know, negative economic impacts including assistance to households, small businesses, etcetera, to respond to workers performing essential work during the pandemic, to provide government services to the extent of a reduction in revenue. I don't see how any of those fit the current proposal. The last one is to make necessary investments in infrastructure, but it's limited to water, sewer, or broadband. So, my concern here is, apart from the merits from the project itself, I wouldn't want the town to commit to do something and then have the federal funds disallowed and the money have to come out of taxpayer collections. Thank you.

Moderator: Okay. Jim, do you want to take any of that for us or?

J. Brinton: I would just, yeah. Thanks Andrew. I'd would just preface that by saying we did vet it through the Town Attorney and I'll give Randy an opportunity to speak. It was also, we sent it to our Auditor, who does the Town Audit.

Moderator: A little louder.

J. Brinton: A little louder? Is that better? So, we felt comfortable in the fact that we're not. The last thing we want to do is put out a request to get an

approval when there's going to be a fallback. We went through all these steps. But Randy?

Atty. DiBella:

I'm the lawyer [laughter]. In any event, the Code of Federal Regulations has an entire panoply of conditions and terms that this money can be used. A big one is a tangential or even indirect effect of the COVID pandemic. What Jim explained to me is that there is a need in the town which was highlighted during the pandemic because there weren't enough safe emergency shelters in the event that occurred. That probably, and I can't say definitely because this was all uncharted waters, that probably would qualify in and of itself. But there's another provision. And that provision is that to the extent that there's a revenue reduction as a result of the COVID pandemic that revenue reduction can be made up on a worthy project, if you will. Now, the revenue reduction under the Treasury Department regulations is not the loss of money coming in. It happens to be, less than four-point-one percent increase over the previous fiscal year prior to the pandemic. So that's why the Auditor had to get involved in this to determine whether or not this is a viable project. So, the reality is that there are a couple of ways this can be done. First of all, the Board of Selectmen determined that there was an impact, because of the unavailability of emergency shelters. Secondly, if there was not a four-point-one percent increase, in your revenue from the year prior, which is the control year, to the year following which is a COVID pandemic year, then that would also boost them, if you will, it will bring a lot of projects up into eligibility because we'd be making up for revenue in order to continue the programs. So, there's a two-pronged, if you will, examination and that's in accordance with the Treasury regulations that have come out.

Moderator:

Thank you very much. Any other questions? [unintelligible]

D. Tagley:

Diana Tagley.

Multiple Voices:

[unintelligible interruption]

Moderator:

Hold on.

D. Tagley:

Diana Tagley, 42 Sabbaday Lane. I'm not an attorney and I'm just sitting here thinking, church, state, isn't that something that should be considered here? I just want to know what the answer is.

Moderator:

I think you'll find it has been considered. Randy, would you explain?

Atty. DiBella:

That's a very good question. And that's a very reasonable question. The separation of church and state has to do with the preclusion of any town or any governmental entity establishing a favorite religion. However, there is a three-pronged test. It comes from a case called Lemon against Kurtzman, I believe, many years ago. And since it's been refined. And those three prongs are whether or not there's an

attempt to establish religion, that is the purpose effect. If that's what the government involved was to do. Second is whether or not it's to, if the effect would be to create a favorite denomination of religion. So, the third is whether there's excess of governmental entanglement in that project, or in that operation. Those three prongs are what we examine when determine whether or not there's an establishment problem. Here we don't have a purpose of establishing a religion or even promoting a church of tenets. It's a secular purpose in other words. The purpose has nothing to do with religion. It has to do with protecting public safety. So, we can arguably put away that prong. The second one, that this does not have an effect of creating a favorite religion. It's not intended to and it's not something that normally would. It's an emergency shelter. And the third, excess of entanglement, and that's a good question. And the reality is that there is very little entanglement. There's a Memorandum of Understanding, which is terminable, and it is for simply a secular purpose as well, that is stocking and maintaining the shelter. And that's it. So, in my view, I believe this satisfies all three of those prongs as they evolved over the years and there's no threat that this would be an establishment violation.

D. Tagley: I understand. However, the generator and all other parts of this project would be under the ownership of the Town of Washington. Am I correct?

Atty. DiBella: I believe that is, [unintelligible] license, sure.

J. Brinton: Yep.

D. Tagley: So how do you separate that?

Atty. DiBella: Well, we're not separating...

D. Tagley: And will we be, if somebody decides that this is something they really don't approve of and want to bring a litigation against the town, how vulnerable are we?

Atty. DiBella: We're not vulnerable on this. As a matter of fact, I think it would be ill-advised to litigation. I just defended one of those cases and it's very ill-advised. And I don't think [unintelligible] not a thinking lawyer would bother with this in court because it's not a case. Even though the town owns it, it's a secular purpose, it's for all of you, and it's for anyone who needs it in our town. So, I believe it's eminently defensible and I would believe that it would be that in and of itself would preclude an experienced lawyer from taking that case.

Moderator: Okay I'm looking for any further hands.

C. Carron: Right here. My name is Cathy Carron and I live at 58 Gun Hill Road. I would like you to speak to fairness. Have you offered other

churches in town \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) each to do a separate project? Have you even talked to them about that?

J. Brinton: Thanks Cathy. We looked at other facilities in town, and not, you know, from St. Andrews, New Preston Congregational, Congregational on the Green, St. John's, none of them had all of the components we needed to make the shelter satisfactory. So, they were either lacking parking, facilities, whatever the case may be.

C. Carron: But you talked to them?

J. Brinton: No. I can drive by and see there's no parking. I—

C. Carron: I just [unintelligible].

J. Brinton: Yeah.

Moderator: One thing, you said the term before, you'd give \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) to the Salem Covenant Church. That's really not what's happening here. The town is going to spend money to make the space appropriate for emergency services and more than half of that \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) is going to be used to just buy the generator. So, I don't see a check being written to a church here. And this is strictly a secular provision to create emergency services space that's appropriate for this town. Once it realized that the space it was currently using is no longer appropriate. Yes, over here?

R. Schlossberg: Richard Schlossberg, 36 Hifield Drive. The federal government's entering what we might consider unprecedented debt. That crisis, I don't know if it's a, what you think, if it's life literally relying on federal funding in the future, in the near term of the next couple of years.

Moderator: I think that the point he was making is the government is going into debt creating these funds like the ARPA funds, and whatnot and are we wise to accept the money? Is that basically what you are saying? I guess, I don't know, I don't want to sound cavalier about it, but I don't know that the officers of this town would be doing a good fiduciary job for its people if it didn't accept the money that was out there available to it. I think one of the things the town government should be doing is especially trying to find all the money it can to serve the town. That's my own personal opinion. But Jimmy, please?

J. Brinton: Richard, you're right. We didn't ask for this. But the funds are inhouse, they're here now. We've already gotten a check. So, they're here. None of the requests on here would be made if we didn't have the funds inhouse.

Moderator: Any other questions? [background noise] Yes.

L. McGarr: Linda McGarr, 64 Dark Entry Road. I have a question of with that amount of money, if you had put it into this building, to make this building also the emergency center, as it was back when the, whatever—

J. Brinton: Twenty-ten [2010].

L. McGarr: Because it worked back then. We didn't have any of the showers, and whatnot, but everything is shutdown in an emergency situation, so it's not likely to put any of us in the offices out because some of us weren't able to get in here. And the ones that did, we didn't have people coming and going because then everybody was stuck at home and there wasn't any work. But why couldn't we put that amount of money into this building that will always be our Town Hall and could serve as that emergency shelter.

J. Brinton: The short answer, Linda, is, again, we considered having a shelter in an emergency services building or in the seat of government and we deemed it was not appropriate. What happened in 2010, the food all had to be cooked and brought in; we don't have the facilities to cook.

L. McGarr: Oh well could we spend that money to put those facilities in here?

J. Brinton: But then we would still have a shelter located in town government and we didn't want that.

L. McGarr: I'm just saying, it worked back then.

J. Brinton: I understand. Nope, I understand.

Moderator: Just to help here, let me ask you a question. The idea of not wanting a shelter to comingle with town government. Could you talk about what the logic of that is? Why?

J. Brinton: Because in the time, especially the pandemic, given the nature of the disease, transmissibility, etcetera etcetera, before we had a vaccine, the busiest people ever were in the Town Hall was during that time. As a matter of fact, we had to send a lot of people home because of it. So, we don't want to add to that by making this an emergency shelter.

Moderator: I see one arm over here that came up?

P. Allen: Phyllis Allen, 40 Quarry Ridge Road.

Moderator: Excuse me. I'm having trouble hearing you.

P. Allen: Phyllis Allen, 40 Quarry Ridge Road.

Moderator: Thank you.

P. Allen: This is kind of a way-out question. But what happens if the church closes? What happens then? Are we still responsible for the building? Say five years from now that church has no minister anymore, no pastor. Does the church close and we still benefit from that building or will they have to sell it? This is kind of a way-out question.

Moderator: No, it's a good question Phyllis. It's a good question.

P. Allen: Something to think about.

J. Brinton: Yep, it's not a way-out question Phyllis. Partially we have the M-O-U to ensure that as long as the church is there, we're using that as a shelter. If in the event, some calamity should happen in any of our churches that have been here for over two hundred years, disappears, we take back our generator.

P. Allen: That generator, that's it?

J. Fredlund: Julie Fredlund, 257 Bee Brook Road. I am a member of Salem Covenant Church, and an active member on the council. And you know, we have not made this decision half-heartedly. It's not just the funds for the generator. We have a group of people in our church who are committed to doing this, to helping people stay safe, and warm, and under lights, and a place to go. And I guess my next question to you, is that if I needed shelter, my family needed shelter, with ten days without electricity which we have experienced in the last two years, where is the nearest shelter that we have housed people [unintelligible]? Has anybody ever been to one nearby?

J. Brinton: This was—

J. Fredlund: Has anybody ever wanted to go to one and have phones, get some water, warm up? Read a book under a light? Get on my computer? There's a lot of talk going into it and we're just trying to help everybody.

Moderator: Thank you. Any of you?

D. Tagley: Diana Tagley, 42 Sabbaday. Thank you for thinking of us. Thank you for having compassion and understanding. But I don't think that's what the question is here. This is not about you not wanting to help us. We all want to help each other. The question is how \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) which is assigned to our domain being used for the benefit of everyone and are we protected by the law and by the regulations of the government as they set forward. Thank you again for thinking of us.

Moderator: Thank you. In the background?

R. Schlossberg: Richard Schlossberg 36 Hifield Drive. Have any of the new technologies such as some battery storage or recharging stands that

can be, maybe if not now, maybe the near future, the alternative to generators, have any of those been looked at?

Moderator: Battery storage. Fuel [unintelligible].

J. Brinton: No, we haven't researched that, Richard.

Moderator: Any other questions? I'm seeing no hands raised. Are we're taking the vote?

Multiple Voices: Yes, yes.

Moderator: All right. I'm going to read this one again: Resolved to approve \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act for upgrades to the Salem Church to create and emergency shelter for the town. Motion has been made and seconded. We've had a good robust discussion. All in favor of approving this motion, please say aye.

Multiple Voices: Aye.

Moderator: All opposed, please say nay.

Multiple Voices: Nay.

Moderator: I think the odds have it, but I'd like to double check it with a hand vote if you don't mind. Let's go back, and all in favor of this motion who said aye, please raise one hand. Okay, you all looking around to see this, same as I am? Okay, lower your hands. All those who said nay, please raise your hand. All right, in my view, the ayes clearly have it and I declare the motion to have been carried. Thank you. On to Motion, or excuse me, Resolution Number 4, Jim?

J. Brinton: Resolve to approve \$5,800 (fifty-eight hundred dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act for emergency mental health treatment at High Watch Recovery Facility for a Town of Washington employee.

Clerk: Second.

Moderator: We have a second?

Clerk: Yeah.

Moderator: Okay, any questions on Motion Number 4? Any comments, issues? Are we ready to vote? Oh, one over here, on my left. Dean, thank you.

J. Gorra: Just explain it a little bit better, that's all.

J. Brinton: Sure.

J. Gorra: I don't, I don't totally understand it.

J. Brinton: I will Judy. So, what happened was—

Clerk: [interrupts] Judy—

J. Brinton: It was an emergency. We literally, we didn't have days, we had hours, to act, for one of our town employees to get into this facility. I wouldn't be overstating it to say it was lifesaving. And we just, we had to do something. It was a town employee.

J. Gorra: Oh, okay.

J. Brinton: I mean it could have been anybody.

Multiple Voices: [agreeing]

J. Gorra: Enough said.

J. Brinton: Yeah, yeah. I don't know why we picked the only guy with a boot cast to run around.

D. Sargeant: Yeah, I'm not.

Multiple Voices: [laughter]

Moderator: Are there other questions about Resolution Number 4? Are we ready to vote? Okay. Resolved to approve \$5,800 (fifty-eight hundred dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act for emergency mental health treatment at High Watch Recovery facility for a Town of Washington employee. The motion's been made and seconded. All in favor, please say aye.

Multiple Voices: Aye.

Moderator: Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. Resolution Number 5?

J. Brinton: Resolved to approve \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act to purchase the Ericson Insurance building on Bee Brook Road which will be combined with a pledge of \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) and Washington Ambulance Association fundraising.

Moderator: May I hear a second on that motion?

S. Anson: Second.

Moderator: Thank you.

Clerk: Who's that?

S. Anson: Sheila.

Multiple Voices: Sheila. It's Sheila. She was in the back.

Clerk: Thank you.

Moderator: Okay, questions on this Resolution. To my left?

L. McGarr: Linda McGarr, 64 Dark Entry Road. I just wanted to point out that we are voting to spend money on a building we don't own yet. And in order to own this building we have to come before the town again to ask to purchase this building. When is that meeting going to be that we will ask the residents of Washington to buy this building?

J. Brinton: As soon as we have the funding in place Linda, we'll put it out to a Town Meeting.

L. McGarr: I'm sorry?

J. Brinton: As soon as we have funding in place, we will call a Town Meeting to purchase the building.

L. McGarr: And then if we have the money in place and then it gets voted down that we won't purchase the building, what happens with that money?

J. Brinton: The money goes back into the fund.

Moderator: There's one right here before we cross the room.

V. Andersen: Valerie Andersen, 171 Blackville Road. Is this property, does this property cost \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) to purchase or is there any residual payment that has to be made?

J. Brinton: I'm sorry Valerie, didn't hear.

V. Andersen: How much is the cost of this property? Is it \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) and also—

J. Brinton: No, it's going to—

V. Andersen: To retrofit it?

J. Brinton: Understood, thank you. The cost of the retrofit is going to be more than that. We aren't sure of the exact number right now.

V. Andersen: It's \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) to buy?

J. Brinton: No.

V. Andersen: What is it?

J. Brinton: We don't know. We have to negotiate a price and that with the owners, and all that, this is all contingent and specific to this property. So, if we aren't able to secure a deal and raise the funds for this property, all the money goes back.

Moderator: Well as I understand it the first step in the process is to lock in the \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) of ARPA funds, as part of the beginning of the process. Okay?

V. Andersen: So, if there's \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) on the table, but we don't know if the property costs \$750,000 (seven hundred fifty thousand dollars,) we're already in the deal, correct?

J. Brinton: No, there's no commitment. Until we have a deal to purchase the property we are under no obligation.

V. Andersen: Okay.

Moderator: The town meeting of the future, we'll have the opportunity to vote the purchase of the building up or down at that future point. Right now, what we need to do is get agreement that part of that purchase price will be the \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) from the ARPA fund.

V. Andersen: If it's a worthy situation, but I would think if you would present this at the town meeting, we can buy X-property for 250 plus 300,000 to renovate. We will be getting 250 from a private donor for X-dollars.

V. Andersen: Instead of like this, This first step does not quite a first step.

J. Brinton: Well, it is in the sense that it doesn't put these funds at risk. In other words, if the deal's not done the funds go back, Valerie, so there's no risk to the town until the deal is completed and even that needs approval at a town meeting. So, no matter what the price tag is if we come back and say we raised \$2,000,000 (two million dollars) to purchase this building for 500,000, I'm not sure where the risk is.

V. Andersen: Excuse me one more thing, where does it go back to? Just to us to use for another worthy project or does it go back to the fund?

J. Brinton: It goes, it goes back to the funds, Valerie. So, it's back in place if you will. People can make requests of it, the Board, it starts the process.

V. Andersen: It's still in our hands.

J. Brinton: Correct.

Valerie Andersen: Okay.

Moderator: Jay?

J. Hubelbank: Just to add to that. If the Town Committees, the 250 along with the donor, allows us to then go out and fund raise heavily for other funds to help cover the cost, it shows the town has made a commitment to do this. And again, if it falls through we get the money back. But it allows those folks who were going to go out and fundraise to show already that the town's serious about this and wants to do this and wants to make this our site.

J. Brinton: I would also just like to add that I see this by no means as frivolous. If you saw the conditions that our emergency services operate under, they've outgrown a single building. Their volume of calls, both fire and EMS, have gone through the roof. And they need this facility. This would be dedicated to the Ambulance Association. The Fire Department would take over that building.

Moderator: I had a question, are many towns in Litchfield County separated or have separated their emergency services from the fire houses that they have?

J. Brinton: To my knowledge there's quite a few. I think Harwinton, Morris.

Male: New Milford.

Female: [unintelligible]

J. Brinton: Woodbury, Bethlehem, Kent, towns our size.

Moderator: And the other thing as I understand it is, why is this building so appropriate for Washington to be the building of choice?

J. Brinton: Ideally, you know, it boils down to two things, size and it can accommodate what our emergency services need in its proximity. It's located virtually across the street from the Fire Department.

Moderator: Yes.

A. Carron: Andrew Carron, 58 Gunn Hill Road. I just want to put the same question, the same legal question, that I had on the earlier one. Are we confident that this project, the ambulance facility or the emergency services facility, complies with the permitted uses under the ARPA? Thank you.

Atty. DiBella: I'm very confident. As a matter of fact, the use of funds for first responders—

Moderator: Randy? Would you come here to use the microphones?

Atty. DiBella: Yes. I'm very confident it is because the use of funds for first response deployment is clearly authorized. And as a matter of fact, it's been encouraged by the Treasury regarding the use of these funds. New Milford's doing it. New Milford's doing, I think, \$380,000 (three hundred eight thousand dollars) and another town

that I represent is also doing it. So, this is something that would be applauded. It's a good question. It's not specific.

Moderator: Yes.

L. Williams: Linda Williams, 98 Baldwin Hill Road, Washington Depot. I've been asking lots of people and I'm sorry I'm ignorant, but you can tell us what the Town received as ARPA funds? And when the money goes back into a fund, if for any reason, is there a time frame that it has to be used by?

J. Brinton: Municipalities have until 2026, Linda, to expend all funds. So, identify, request, get approvals, and expend the funds. The Town of Washington was allocated \$300,000 (three hundred thousand dollars) and change for our town and then there was also the Treasury sent down a county allocation. And as you know, we don't have any county government in Connecticut. So, then that had to be divided bringing our total to just over a million dollars. So, our initial installment was roughly \$507,000 (five hundred seven dollars) and we'll receive the same amount next year. And we have four years to spend it.

R. Schlossberg: Richard Schlossberg, 36 Hifield Drive. Has there been a study for any chance of the emergency of responses, the ambulance responses in town? For example, if five percent of emergencies were, let's say at the lake, in a boat launch or people have been drowning type of thing, it would make more sense to locate the ambulance near that area. Has there been any study of locations or potential locations of a [unintelligible]?

J. Brinton: I'm going to defer to our Ambulance Chief, Adam Woodruff?

A. Woodruff: Adam Woodruff, 151 Litchfield Turnpike. To answer your question on location, if you looked at the map, the Depot fire house is almost perfectly centered in town. And it's about a six to seven mile run down to Woodbury as well as out to the edge of town on West Shore Road. So, from some our response time data it's within a minute or two difference going in each direction or out toward Bethlehem or over towards New Milford. And having this building for EMS will allow sleeping and crew quarters which will dramatically reduce response times, especially at night. During the daytime it's better everybody's up and dressed and things like that, but at nighttime it will make a big difference.

Moderator: Over here.

K. Templeton: Keith Templeton, Golf Course Road. I'm just wondering, the proposal says that we have the opportunity to purchase this building. I suppose we have the opportunity to purchase all kinds of buildings depending on how much we're prepared to spend. I'm wondering if this building is affirmatively offered for sale and at what price?

J. Brinton: It is, with a price to be determined, Keith, it is for sale.

K. Templeton: Well, have we not determined the price right here when we talk about 250,000 and another 250,000?

J. Brinton: No.

K. Templeton: Well wouldn't the seller be kind of foolish to leave money lying on the table if he knows it's there?

J. Brinton: No, there's no money left on the table we have—

K. Templeton: Well, we're talking about \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) in aggregate.

Moderator: As I understand it all we're doing is saying that if the building is purchased and if the funds are raised, \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) of those funds will come from ARPA. That's all we're doing for now.

K. Templeton: But you know we already have a pledge for another 250,000—

Moderator: We don't have a pledge for anything.

Female: No.

Moderator: It hasn't been negotiated with the seller yet. The numbers that are in there are expectations with regard to funding plus the ARPA money.

V. Andersen: Valerie Andersen, 171 Blackville Road. I love our EMT group here. I love our volunteer fire department. I don't what we would do without these people and the facilities they need to do their job to help us. What I can't wrap my head around is why don't we just buy what seems to be an ideal building, period, and not fund raise? This is a rich community. Let's do what's best for our EMTs. If they say that this is a good facility and this is the right time to break away from the facility of the Fire Department, then let's get more serious about it. Let's just do it. Commit this money, of course], and then proceed to an actual purchase, not some vague budgets.

J. Brinton: Well, that's the goal Valerie. But if I can do it without increasing the mill rate or burden on taxpayers, why in Heaven's name would I ever do that?

L. McGarr: Linda McGarr, 64 Dark Entry. Is this building for the town to purchase in a flood zone?

J. Brinton: Is it? No, I don't believe it's in a flood plain, Linda. The other side of the road is.

Male: But we built the fire house.

J. Brinton: Right.

Moderator: I'm looking for hands, I'm not seeing any. Are we ready to vote?

Male: Yes.

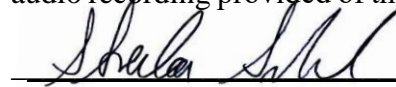
Moderator: Okay. Let me read the motion again. Resolved to approve \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) from the American Rescue Plan Act to purchase the Ericson Insurance building on Bee Brook Road which will be combined with a pledge of \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) and Washington Ambulance Association fundraising. That motion's been made and duly seconded. All in favor of the Motion please say aye.

Multiple Voices: Aye.

Moderator: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carries. We are hereby done with the business of the evening. I want to thank you all for your cooperation, and for your help in making this a good meeting. Thank you.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:21p.m.

I, Sheila Silvernail, certify to the best of my ability the foregoing is an accurate record based on audio recording provided of the Town of Washington's Annual Town Meeting on October 4, 2021.



Dated at Washington, CT this 11th day of October 2021.