

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 17, 2021
TIME: 1:54 PM

Warrant Committee Communications Subcommittee

Minutes
November 8, 2021
Meeting conducted via Zoom

Members present: Chris Doyle, Liz Goss, Anne Helgen, Paul Rickter, Ellen Schreiber, Laurie Slap

Members absent: Elizabeth Dionne

Other attendees:

Meeting was called to order at 8:02am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 5 meeting were approved. Moved: Helgen, Seconded: Slap, Voted: 4-0 (Rickter abstained)

ARPA Explainer

The subcommittee discussed a draft explainer document on the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Decisions have not been made on how ARPA funds (\$7.8 million over the next two years) will be spent, but it may be useful to present information on the process before decisions are made. Rickter reported that decisions will not be made until more is known about the FY23 budget. A major piece of that uncertainty involves school enrollments, which have declined for the second year in a row, and how state aid will be affected. Rickter will revise the draft ARPA explainer after consulting with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin and School Finance Director Anthony DiCologero and bring the new draft to the subcommittee's next meeting on November 17.

The subcommittee also discussed the possibility of producing an explainer document on school enrollment changes. Comparisons of school enrollment changes in comparable municipalities would likely be a helpful feature of the document.

Presentation on Belmont Financial Indicators

The subcommittee discussed the timing of producing a presentation on the Belmont financial indicators, which Helgen and Slap are working on. We proposed a draft version of this presentation be shown to the Warrant Committee first, potentially on 12/1, followed by a presentation to the Select Board, School Committee, Capital Budget Committee, and the public. The subcommittee agreed to meet on November 22 to review the draft presentation, with a goal

of presenting it to a joint meeting of Select Board, School Committee, Capital Budget Committee, and Warrant Committee by end of year.

Free Cash Podcast

Goss reported that she is planning to produce a podcast interview with Slap on the topic of free cash.

Adjourned at 9:09am. Moved: Slap, Seconded: Rickter, Voted: 4-0