

Arden Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2021
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attending: Deborah Ricard, Brooke Bovard, Nick Stalloni, David Gerber
Larry Walker – Guest

Call to Order: 7:00pm

- The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.
- Larry Walker presented a request from Playground Committee for \$10,000 to be listed as a separate line item on the Budget Referendum Ballot. Some of Arden’s playground equipment is out of compliance with Consumer Products Safety Commission Standards and is a serious liability for our village. The equipment intended for replacement is the jungle gym on the Sherwood Green, the slide on the Sherwood Green and the jungle gym on the Arden Green. Playground wants to replace these pieces with 2 Verve Climbers and a compliant slide from BCI Burke, a commercial supplier and installer of playground equipment. Playground has a state grant for \$30,000 which will fund replacing the slide on the Sherwood Green and the Climber on the Arden Green. Additional funds are needed to replace the climber on the Sherwood Green. Larry stated when playground equipment is removed, families with young children appreciate having a replacement equipment installed.
 - Brooke asked if any of the proposed equipment is ADA accessible and stated that no ADA compliant paths exist to lead to the equipment or a bench on the Arden Green. Larry said the Verve climbers have no cross pipes so there is ground access.
 - Debbie is concerned about dipping into the prudent reserve and suggested seeking alternate funding, possibly from American Rescue Plan funds or from other Arden committees who may be willing to share their budgets. Larry says the committee is looking into possible ARP funding.
 - David Gerbec asked about the cost of removing old equipment and installing new equipment. Larry said removal is not expensive, but installation is quite costly.
 - Following discussion, the committee agrees to add the requested line item to the ballot.
- **A Motion was Made** and unanimously passed to approve minutes of **August 18, 2021**. Vicki will post them on the town web site.
- Arden is considering 2 separate options for trash removal at the September Town Assembly meeting, making it necessary for David Gerbec to prepare 2 ballots. Civic plans to present proposals by Waste Management and Trash Tech for resident approval during the meeting. Waste Management’s proposal for weekly trash/bi-weekly recycle/weekly yard waste is \$79,069 for the first year with a 5% escalator for years 2 & 3 of the contract. Trash Tech’s proposal for weekly trash/bi-weekly recycle/bi-weekly yard waste is \$67,260 for the first year with a 3% escalator for years 2 & 3 of the contract. Whichever option Town Assembly adopts, the 2022-2023 Budget Referendum Ballot will reflect Arden’s selection.
- Brooke explained the discretionary line item titled “Safety - Speed Enforcement” is not accurate. After discussion, this descriptor was changed to “Safety-State Roads.”

- David will be prepare and distribute and updated draft budget referendum ballot for committee review.
- **A Motion was Made** and unanimously passed to schedule a provisional Budget Committee meeting on Thursday, October 7, at 7:00 pm, if needed, concerning the new trash removal contract.
- The Budget Committee will begin discussion of the 3-Year Forecast on **11/18**. Debbie will send the Zoom invitation.

ACTIONS:

- Vicki will post prior meeting minutes to the town web site

Provisional Meeting: **Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 7pm via zoom.** Debbie will schedule, if needed.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 7pm via zoom.** Debbie will schedule.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ricard,
substituting for Vicki Scott