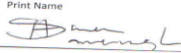


American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Proposal Summaries \*  
 Village of Arden Special Town Meeting  
 April 29, 2024

Attendees: Line 50 illegible  Not signed- in: Jeffrey Politis,  
 Liz Resko

First	Last Name		First	Last Name	
Ruth	Panella	1	Sami	Smith NV	29
Sam	Panella	2	Marcia	Scheflen	30
Carol	DiGiovanni	3	John	Scheflen	31
Jess	Colgan- Snyder	4	William 'Skip'	Bailey	32
Carol	Larson	5	Larry	Walker	33
Steve	Benigni	6	Beverly	Clendening	34
Frank	Maier	7	Dorinda	Dove	35
Warren	Rosenkranz	8	Ron	Ozer	36
Ray	Seigfried	9	Leah	Walker	37
Ellie	Hansen	10	Elizabeth	Varley	38
Bob	Erenburg	11	Ed	Rohrbach	39
David	Gerbec	12	Michael	Pione Oberving NV	40
Pam	Politis	13	Marian	Pione Oberving NV	41
Susan	Stith	14	Mike	Moran	42
Grace E	Ressler	15	Will	Hayfligher NV	43
Marianne	Cinaglia	16	Peter	Compo	44
Deborah M	Ricard	17	Barbara Anne	Macklem	45
Tom	Wheeler	18	Jeffrey	Steen	46
Albert	Marks	19	Chris	Day	47
Sarra	Klimberg	20	Ben	Gruswitz NV	48
Allan	Klebon NV	21	Eric	Reed	49
Ron	Meick	22		Illegible	50
Rebecca	Meick	23	Toby	Ridings	51
Walter	Borders	24	Clay	Ridings	52
Jennifer	Peacock	25	Garrett	Colgan-Snyder	53
Ellen	Dolmetsch	26	William	Theis	54
Lynda	Kolski	27	Jennifer	Borders	55
Sachin	Puranik	28	Terri	Lamborn	56

American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Proposal Summaries \*  
Village of Arden Special Town Meeting  
April 29, 2024

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- 2 -

1. Call to Order/Chair's Intro--- Jeffrey Politis called meeting to order at 7:35
2. Arden's American Rescue Plan Act--- Jennifer

What is ARPA?

ARPA (the American Rescue Plan Act), is a federal law passed by Congress designed to mitigate the effects of Covid on communities. We received \$219,925 back in 2022. Since we are a small municipality, we are allowed to use our funds for far-ranging types of projects. The Town allocated most of it in a previous Town Meeting for four projects some of which are on-going. We now have about \$46,800 that we hope to allocate today. All funds must be committed to projects and contractors by December 31 of this year or we will have to give back money. Projects have until the end of 2026 to spend allocated funds.

Role of Community Planning Committee

The Community Planning Committee has been shepherding this process and overseeing the projects along with the Treasurer and Town Meeting Chair. The Committee is dedicated to remaining neutral in all deliberations and voting for ARPA projects.

Projects

Today we will hear about six projects proposed by community members. All six projects are eligible for funding. Each proposal will be given 10

American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Proposal Summaries \*  
Village of Arden Special Town Meeting  
April 29, 2024

- 3 -

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minutes to present their case to you. After each presentation there will be an opportunity to ask the presenters about their project.

We have provided a printed summary of all the proposals. To view the full proposals, go to the Arden website listed or scan the QR code at the bottom of the Proposals Summaries document. I have a couple paper copies of each full proposal. If during the proceedings you would like to look at a paper copy of a particular proposal, please raise your hand and I'll bring it to you.

I want to take a moment to thank all of the people who have submitted proposals. They have spent many hours developing, writing, negotiating with contractors and putting together their proposals and presentations. This shows a real dedication to the Ardens and to making a positive impact upon the community. And, a big thank you to the Community Planning Committee who have hung in there and wrestled with ARPA over the last two years.

3. Voting Procedures--- Jennifer/Registration Committee.

Voting Procedures

As we did in 2022, we will allocate funds in a ranked choice voting procedure. Please note that the ARPA money left over from 2022 is insufficient to fund all proposals. Some hard choices will need to be made today. The total of the proposals is \$79,524 and we only have about \$46,800 left. We will fund projects in order of the ranked votes.

American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Proposal Summaries \*  
 Village of Arden Special Town Meeting  
 April 29, 2024

If, after our ranked choice voting is tallied, and it appears that there is not enough money to fully fund the next project, we will ask the that presenter if their project can be accomplished given the remaining partial funding and the ARPA timeline. After the project presenter has a chance to addresses this question, an up or down vote of the Assembly will take place to accept or reject partially funding that project.

The Community Planning Committee in consultation with the Registration Committee have developed this voting procedure. --Ask Registration if they want to add anything.      PROJECTION 1: BALLOT

**2024 ARPA Grant Proposals BALLOT**

**Total ARPA Funding available to be awarded today: \$46,000**

\*\*\*Not all proposals will be approved\*\*\*

The proposals with most points will be funded until money runs out.

*Vote for projects you want approved; voters are not required to give each project a score. Projects without a score will be counted as 0.*

Please rank the proposals from 0 - 5  
 0 is for your Least Favorite - 5 for your Most Favorite

USE EACH  
 NUMBER  
 ONLY ONCE

	PROJECT -alphabetical order	Request	YOUR VOTE Rank from 0 to 5
A	Emergency Power Generators	\$20,000	
B	Pop-Up Dog Park (ACRA)	\$7,100	
C	Repave BWVC Basketball Court and Surrounding Areas	\$14,000	
D	Shady Grove Pavilion (Arden Club)	\$30,200	
E	Storage Sheds Repair (ACRA)	\$2,500	
F	Vegetation Surveying and Mapping of the 3 Ardens	\$5,824	
<b>Total Requests:</b>		<b>\$79,624</b>	

American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Proposal Summaries \*  
 Village of Arden Special Town Meeting  
 April 29, 2024

4. Contingencies Motion

Importantly, we don't want to lose any of the money given to us. As mentioned above all funds must be allocated by the end of this year.

Therefore, a motion will be made after all voting is final that allows, in case of contingencies or unspent funds, for the Community Planning Committee to allocate the remaining funds to approved projects as needed, and recommend other spending options to be approved at the June or September Town Meetings as needed.

**MOTION:** I move that the Community Planning Committee, in consultation with the Town Treasurer, be allowed to allocate any remaining ARPA funds to projects already approved by the ARPA Special Town Assembly as needed, and/or recommend other spending options to the June or September Town Meetings. Voice Vote – The majority of those present were in favor of the motion, the motion carries and **Motion Approved.**

PROJECTION 2: FINANCE SPREADSHEET –Skip Bailey, Treasurer (finances)Q

VILLAGE OF ARDEN						
April 1, 2020 - April 17, 2024						
	Total ARPA Funds	ARPA Archives Internet Upgrade	ARPA Buzz Sewer Upgrade	ARPA Playground Equipment	ARPA Stormwater Mgt	Total ARPA Funds
Grants	219,068.07					219,068.07
Original Total approved funding	\$ 219,068.07	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 135,400.00	\$ 180,400.00
Uncommitted ARPA funds from first Village approval						\$ 38,068.07
Expenses						
IT Consulting		5,600.00				5,600.00
Equipment Purchases				6,125.00		6,125.00
Professional Fees - Other					29,276.25	29,276.25
Renovations			6,890.00			6,890.00
Repairs & Maintenance			450.00			450.00
Program Expenses			1,472.00	6,021.14		7,493.14
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>		5,600.00	8,824.00	13,046.14	29,276.25	56,746.39
<b>Balance 4-17-24</b>	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 7,176.00	\$ 683.86	\$ 108,123.76		
Unspent + not originally allocated; available for new funding approval	\$ 40,797.93					

Village of Arden Special Town Meeting

April 29, 2024

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**Questions/Comments**

The funds in the full amount of \$219,000 are in the Village Bank Account earning interest (earning approx. \$1,000/mo.). If it is not spent, funds are returned except the interest.

The town process is a spending limit of \$50,000 before three proposal estimates are required.

5. Presentation of Proposals

A. Emergency Power Generators - Jeffrey Politis

Estimated cost: \$20,000

The project will provide a continuous emergency power supply to three public buildings in the Ardens, creating three emergency reception centers, or “resilience hubs”, for the residents of the three Ardens. These centers will be used in case of emergency. The project will install back-up power systems to the Buzz Ware Village Center, The Arden Club Gild Hall in Arden, and the Candlelight Dinner Theater in Ardentown. The overall projected is estimated at \$160,000 and will be funded from a variety of local, state and federal sources.

- Warren Rosenkranz read the following and provided hard copies

**I have a few comments about Mr. Politis’ request for ARPA grant money.**

It is my understanding that Mr. Politis contacted a Grant writer group to help write Grant(s) from FEMA and a matching Grant from ARPA.

Mr. Politis and the Grant writer group should be aware of the **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 45, Subtitle A, Subchapter A, Part 75, Subpart D, 75.306 (b)** dated April 15, 2024, which states:

“For all Federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions and third-party in-kind contributions, must meet all of the following criteria: 1) Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity’s records, 2) are not included as contributions for any other Federal award 3) Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award.”

Village of Arden Special Town Meeting

April 29, 2024

---

**This means matching funds for one Federal grant cannot come from another Federal Grant.**

If the Town Assembly passes this application and utilizes both FEMA and ARPA money, the Village of Arden's liability to repay the Federal Government could be between \$20,000 and \$120,000, as will be decided by the US Treasury.

I suggest the Town Assembly of Arden remove the Generator grant application to ARPA and raise the matching \$20,000 outside any Federal programs eliminating the potential for adverse financial consequences.

- Village Chairman, Jeffrey Politis read from the internet the following:

**May CSLFRF funds available under the Revenue Loss category be used to meet the non-federal match or cost-share required of other federal programs?** Yes, funds under the Revenue Loss category generally may be used to meet the non-federal cost-share or matching requirements of other federal programs. CSLFRF funds may not be used as the nonfederal share for purposes of a state's Medicaid and CHIP programs. CSLFRF funds in the other eligible use categories may not be used to meet the non-federal match or cost-share requirements of other federal programs, [unless specifically provided for by statute](#).

### Questions/Comments

Generators with batteries- If there is a loss of gas, the BWVC will have no heat but will have electric for coffee, etc. The proposal went through multiple iterations with FEMA prior to submitting it to FEMA. If there was significant concern, he would hope that FEMA would have addressed those concerns prior to filing the grant. He is assuming since they have approved it, that it is acceptable to them.

Warren wants to know why Jeff applied for this without the Village permission? Jeff - all three Villages applied and he presented this at the town meeting to see if there was interest in purchasing generators (January 22, 2024 Town Assembly Minutes, Communications Report). He offered to withdraw his proposal if those present indicated that they would support this. There was no interest except for a few in Jeff withdrawing his proposal for Generators.

## Village of Arden Special Town Meeting

April 29, 2024

---

Point of Order – Limiting debate time/cutting off debates

The Advisory Committee set the agenda with a time limit for Q & A of 10 minutes per person. Bob Erenberg raised point of order and challenged the debate time limits. Jeffrey Politis, as a presenter not as Village chair, acknowledged that he heard Bob's point of order. Mr. Erenberg did not like what he said, however he failed to put the matter to a vote as suggested by Sachin Purnanik, acting Village Chair (Robert's Rule of Order: A 2/3 vote is required for any motion that deprives a member of rights in any way (i.e. Cutting off a debate)). Mr. Erenberg would not give way and resume his seat and demanded a debate (point of orders are not debatable). Sachin Purnanik withdrew the time constraint for Q& A.

Motion to cut off debate, and a Motion for Chair to step down.

Jeff announced the debates have ended. Bob Erenberg and Carol DiGiovanni both objected to his ruling and raised a point of order because the cut off of a debate was not discussed/debated. Jeff Politis, still acting as a presenter not as Village Chair reiterated that he heard their point of order. Bob Erenberg moved the **motion**, would the body like to end the debate? Motion passed by a Majority voice vote to end the debate and their Point of Order has been heard. They wanted a hand vote. Request Denied because there is a community standard that they have a common way of doing things. Chair referenced the Village Parliamentarian's consultation letter (Jonathan M. Jacobs, PRP, CPC). Letter available on the Village website: arden.delaware.gov. Warren read part of Parliamentarian's recommendation 1: Custom is to use the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. Jeff agrees with this but further adds that it also says what we do deviates a little from Robert's Rules of Order is our customs. Our custom is allowed. Warren states that the Chair "is bulling the audience" and moved the **motion**, that the Chair step down. The motion was defeated by all but a few no's.

B: Pop-Up Dog Park (ACRA)

Estimated cost: \$7,100



## Village of Arden Special Town Meeting

April 29, 2024

---

ACRA would like to purchase materials to support pop-up style, temporary dog play groups in the Ardens. Dog play enclosure areas promote community connections among dog owners. A temporary enclosure placed on public and private property within the three villages would build connections among our residents. We envision an occasional, pop-up style area, timed around weather, in partnership with leaseholders. The project includes the purchase of temporary fencing, movable sign to identify participation rules, movable dog waste bag and disposal station, storage structure for fencing and materials when not in use.

**Questions/Comments**

The portable pop ups would be shared with all three Ardens. The size varies because it is comprised of panels that can be configured in different ways. ACRA would be responsible for maintenance, storage, obtaining Village use permit, notify the community of pop event. Once set up it could be left up for a week or more and would need some kind of policing. Because it is a private dog enclosure and not a government space, the members will determine how to address unwanted behavior.

**C. Repave BWVC Basketball Court and Surrounding Areas – Larry Walker**

Estimated cost: \$14,000

A contractor will repave the blacktop areas behind Buzz Ware Village Center (BWVC), which include the basketball court and surrounding play areas. The present area is worn, no longer level, and in some places the blacktop has deteriorated. The area has not been repaved for thirty years and the surface is no longer level. It needs to be repaved to make it a safer and better play area.

**Questions/Comments**

## Village of Arden Special Town Meeting

April 29, 2024

---

The plan is to remove all the existing surface and repave it. There will be no cover up or patch up. They will not be using permeable material because it would increase cost 50 to 75 percent. A suggestion is to set up a pavilion on the basketball court periodically to generate income for the community.

**D. Shady Grove Pavilion (Arden Club) – Pat Toman**

Estimated cost: \$30,200

The Arden Club is at the heart of the Community, Arts, and Entertainment for all the Ardens and beyond. Over the years, we have improved the look and feel of the Shady Grove area behind the Gild Hall and beside the Arden Pool. We have worked to make it more useful, comfortable, and more accessible. The Shady Grove Arden Pool project will continue to improve its beautification and usefulness, and would like to include a new pavilion (i.e. a permanent roof) with an all-weather sound system for Club and Tri-Arden Community events, and ADA compliant access to the stage.

**Questions/Comments**

It's safe to play electric guitars in the rain. The size is about the same as the existing stage. The funds would go to the Arden Club who is requesting these funds and they would submit voucher to Treasurer who pays them.

**E. Storage Sheds Repair (ACRA) – Peter Compost**

Estimated cost: \$2,500

Repair the two ACRA sheds behind the Buzz Ware Village Center to avoid further deterioration and delay costly and environmentally unwarranted replacement.

Repair the two ACRA sheds behind the Buzz Ware Village Center to avoid further deterioration and delay costly and environmentally unwarranted

## Village of Arden Special Town Meeting

April 29, 2024

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replacement. The deteriorated sheds make a bad impression on ACRA families and the Buzz in general. Because this project is small and straightforward, it could fit in with other larger proposals if there is money left over. Even if there were \$1000 left, it would help subsidize the cost to ACRA.

**Questions/Comments**

Suggest going forward to have a more rigorous maintenance regiment.

## F. Vegetation Surveying and Mapping of the Three Ardens – Carol Larson

Estimated cost: \$8,824

Arden's Forest Committee, in partnership with Ardentown and Ardencroft propose an inventory of current ecological conditions and plant communities in “public open spaces”. The last botanical inventories from 2002-4 are lists of plant species without associated geospatial data. A current inventory of plants and plant communities with a mapping interface that records geospatial data could be used to better manage the forest and be updated to reflect future conditions. This study will provide a glimpse of how the flora may be changing in response to restoration work, environmental and ecological pressures such as the changing climate and nonnative invasive plants.

**Questions/Comments**

The ongoing expenses would be licensing fees of approximately \$385/yr. No ongoing expense for mapping because once the map is in place they can edit and update themselves. Volunteers would update map. It will be determined by each of the three Ardens if these costs along with technology upgrade costs will be a new line item added to the overall town budget or committees will absorb this cost with their existing budget.

American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Proposal Summaries \*  
Village of Arden Special Town Meeting  
April 29, 2024

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- 12 -

\*Full project proposals can be found on the Village of Arden website at:

<https://arden.delaware.gov/arpa-proposals-2024/>

Or scan QR Code:



6. Voting-- Registration Committee hands out ballots
7. Tallying-- Registration Committee  
A **motion** was presented to allow Registration Committee to count votes after the town meeting adjourns was unanimously approved.
8. Awarding of Funds—Jennifer to be posted once determined
9. Motion to Ajournement 9 :25 p.m.