

# Memo

To: Plan Commission, Village Board

Fr: Trevor Fuller, Director of Planning and Community Development

Re: ACTION RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Date: 19 May 2022

On March 11, 2022 United States Federal Government passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which allocated \$1.9 trillion to communities as an effort to speed up the country's recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recession. The Village of Allouez received \$1,454,264.90 as a part of this economic stimulus bill.

The initial scope of eligible expenses was relatively narrow, but has since broadened to include a wider range of community projects. The village has committed a portion of the funds already to infrastructure repair and economic development related projects.

The Village Board is looking for recommendations from the committees on how to best utilize these funds. Previous discussions at Plan Commission and Economic Development Committee have included suggestions to utilize the funds for a business revolving loan fund, homeowner revolving loan fund, trail crossings, road improvements, park improvements, community center/business incubation spaces, Ash tree removal and replacement, and public space activation integration into new development spaces.

Plan Commission recommended the following list to the Village Board at the March 28, 2022 meeting.

- Amphitheatre and public space/activation.
- Improved access to the Fox River Trail through St. Francis Park.
- Tuition assistance or scholarship to local residents interested in studying government.
- Improving existing park restrooms and adding drinking fountains for pets in public areas.
- Eliminate or pay down water utility debts.
- Support of the Allouez Business Association.
- Creation of a housing rehabilitation assistance fund.

Staff and the Village Board would like the discussion to be ongoing.

**The Plan Commission is asked to discuss ideas for utilizing the village ARPA funds and provide a ranking order to the Village Board.** Consideration should be given to projects that provide an impact to the whole community, provide positive ripple effects, implement projects that would otherwise go unfunded or be delayed, and would fund projects that do not qualify for current available public grants.