ARPA Proposal for IT Updates to Chester Town Hall and Meeting House

Submitter Contact Information

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Proposal Information

Author (citizen, business, organization or committee):

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Description of project:

This project is for provision of information technology (IT) upgrades to the Chester Town Hall Community Room and to Chester's Meeting House. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the need for enhanced technology in order for the Town to communicate with its residents. In response to that need, the company Connecticut Computer Service, Inc. - CTComp, was asked to provide comprehensive, conservative estimates for the cost of these upgrades.

Town Hall: CTComp gave an estimate of $25,500 to outfit the Town Hall Community Room with video and audio equipment that

would provide fixed, seamless equipment (3 cameras, speakers, monitors) that would be networked with the current IT systems in Town Hall. The estimate included a cost of $23,361 for Town Hall Video and Audio equipment and $2,178 for additional wifi access points to accommodate connectivity. CTComp viewed the additional access points as "optional" but "recommended".

Meeting House: CTComp gave an estimate of $38,500 for the Meeting House upgrades which would include video and audio equipment ($11,986) and costs related to purchase and installation of a projector and screen ($18,308). The Meeting House upgrades would also include purchase and installation of network and wireless equipment ($8,206) and costs for relevant security and support subscriptions ($3,960).

Detailed descriptions of the Town Hall and Meeting House IT upgrades proposed by CTComp can be found in the October 27, 2021 Board of Selectman meeting minutes.

ARPA funds requested:

This request is for allocation of up to $60,000 in ARPA funds, which would be used for the Town Hall and Meeting House IT upgrades. The project would be procured in accordance with applicable standard procedures using a set of specifications similar to those proposed from CTComp. CTComp is currently contracted to manage all of Chester's information technology.

Who would most benefit from the project if approved:

Since Town Hall is used to administer Town Government Services to Chester residents, all town residents would derive benefit from this project. As previously stated, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the technology deficiencies within our Town

Hall and Meeting House in terms of communication during a period of stress.

Positive impact of project to the Chester Community

The 2019-2029 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) document indicated that maintenance of Town facilities, including Town Hall and the Meeting House "was a top priority" for the respondents to a long-range planning survey. The availability of funds through ARPA would permit upgrades, as opposed to merely maintenance, of two key infrastructure components of our Town.