



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: May 2, 2024
Submitted by: Town Manager Paul T. Micali
Department: General Government
Speakers: Paul T. Micali

Date of Meeting: May 9, 2024
Time Required: 10 minutes
Background Info. Supplied: Yes: No:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Reconsideration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council to discuss the funding from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services PFAS Rebate Program.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:	N/A	

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	<u>Paul T. Micali</u>	Address	<u>6 Baboosic Lake Road</u>
Phone Number	<u>603-424-2331</u>	Email Address	<u>pmicali@merrimacknh.gov</u>

APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes No: Chair/Vice Chair: Yes No:

Hold for Meeting Date: _____

Memo



TO: Town Council

FROM: Town Manager Paul T. Micali

DATE: May 2, 2024

RE: **Reconsideration of American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA)**

Last week I had a call with NHDS to review the Merrimack Private Well Owners PFAS Grant Reimbursement Program. During the call we discussed that the Town only had reimbursed 1 Merrimack Resident and has 1 pending application. In addition, the EPA has lowered the MCL related to PFAS, however, the current grant for reimbursement is utilizing the old limits until the State approves the new EPA limits. It could take up to 2 years for the State to approve the new EPA MCLs and the State has up to 5 years to implement the new limits.

History:

On March 24, 2022 the Town Council approved the Merrimack Private Well Owners PFAS Grant Reimbursement Program policy:

1. **Merrimack Private Well Owners PFAS Grant Program Reimbursement Policy Follow-up Discussion**

Submitted by Town Manager Paul T. Micali

The Town Council to discuss a Merrimack Private Well Owners PFAS Grant Program Reimbursement Policy for reimbursement for the installation of a Point of Entry System (POET), Point of Use System (POU) or hook-up to MVD public water.

Town Manager Paul Micali shared some updates on the PFAS Grant Program Reimbursement Policy, stating that he tweaked some of the language that was discussed at the last meeting, such as adding in the POU System and clarifying what will be provided, as well as some useful links to post on the website. He also shared that he needs a Motion from the Council stating that the Town of Merrimack will accept the grant if approved by Governor Council. Councilor Harrington stated that this was very well done, and she particularly liked how Mr. Micali separated the application and the explanatory page, making it easy for everyone to understand. She thanked him and Councilor Murphy for their efforts on this. Councilor Hunter asked about the application and qualification process, in which Chairman Koenig clarified that this is specifically for the water testing costs.

MOTION made by Councilor Murphy and seconded by Councilor Healey to approve the PFAS Grant Program Policy as presented; and the Town Council will accept the ARPA grant funding when approved by Governor Council, and the Town Manager to sign any and all necessary documents.

MOTION CARRIES 7-0-0

On October 27, 2022 the Town Council approved the \$1,072,500 for Merrimack residents outside the consent decree to be able to be reimbursed for installing POU or POET systems.

2. **Public Hearing - GOFERR & NHDES Grant for Town of Merrimack (PFAS Rebate Program)**

Submitted by Town Manager Paul T. Micali

The Town Council will hold a public hearing to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of a grant

in the amount of \$1,072,500 for the Town of Merrimack, made available through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to be used towards the PFAS Rebate Program, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Mr. Micali shared that he just needs authority to sign this grant for the Town, which is for the Point of Entry/Point of Use project PFAS Rebate Project to connect affected homes to a public water source. The public hearing was opened at 7:50pm and closed at 7:51pm.

MOTION made by Councilor Murphy and seconded by Councilor Healey to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of a grant in the amount of \$1,072,500 for the Town of Merrimack, made available through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to be used towards the PFAS Rebate Program, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15, and authorize the Town Manager to sign any and all necessary documents.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

Conclusion:

NHDES has other federal money which it can use to pay for PFAS Rebate Program immediately under the new EPA reduced MCL's. They have sent out over 2300 letters throughout the State notifying residents of the new limits and reimbursement program. In addition since we have not had many takers for the \$1,072,500 I think it best to return all but \$130,000 to the Sbtate so they can repurpose the money. There are smaller water districts who could use this money. Finally by holding back \$130,000 the Town would still be able to reimburse around 20 additional home owners.

MOTION:

The Town Council to release \$930,470 back to NHDES for the PFAS Rebate Program.