

Below is the list of comments received from participants of the ARPA funds survey:

Comment Number	Comment
1	Premium pay seems like the wrong use of these funds and should be pit towards capital needs.
2	The HWRSD Winthrop/Cutler School Feasibility study should be a high priority and should not have been kept off the list. I support hazard pay, but it is difficult to judge against other options without any sense of the cost.
3	Fire police hazard pay should be known and amount included.
4	I do believe all of the requests are needed. But it seems to me that we should allocate the money 1st to the items directly related to the Pandemic. Then if there are funds remaining it should be spent on the items that have an immediate need. Thank you for your time and hard work.
5	I hope some of the funds will be considered for the school feasibility study.
6	It would have been good if there was some background info on these measures. This is the first time I have heard of most of them. Q. 23 where is the IT upgrade going to happen? Town Hall?
7	Not sure that this is a very valuable survey. I think every item on this list needs further explanation, making it very difficult to rate the importance of each item
8	Please use ARPA funds to pay for the Cutler/Winthrop school project - shame on the Select Board for not including it in the survey. Please do not spend all the funds immediately - we have time - please don't rush the project to fund YOUR PET
9	My biggest concern is our water supply. The Ipswich River was severely drained this summer. I think we need another water tower, so we can store water during plentiful months.
10	I do not support any further investment in Fire and Police. We should merge Wenham and Hamilton into one service and save millions annually.
11	I appreciate the opportunity to complete this, but as a planning process its' really hard to know what to prioritize without knowing more about how critical some of these needs are, re: septic at Iron Rail vs. FD equipment upgrades...
12	Please use funds for the cutler school plan
13	Speed limit on main st should be 30 from Beverly line to town center.
14	School feasibility study
15	This survey could have been done better. Examples: septic replacement at Iron Rail. Would have been nice if we had more info, i.e. last replaced? Size? And any question that has a TBD as the cost should be eliminated. Same with some of the other Fire Dept questions...why do we need this equipment to be upgraded. I confess I did not attend the Oct 3 briefing so just going by what's in this survey.
16	Feasibility study should be paid for with arpa Police, Fire and Town Halls should merge to save costs.
17	With respect to the IT support upgrades. I would like to ask if the town has considered adopting a cloud infrastructure so as to not have to manage/replace on premises infrastructure. With respect to the Iron Rail Redevelopment Study. I am very surprised by the cost associated with this project. I feel this is very high and as such do not support this.
18	The ARPA funds should be used to fund the school feasibility study that was approved at the Special town meeting but not yet funded and should not be bonded and added to our taxes.
19	Please lower taxes invest in things that will help that. They are becoming unbearable. Also the water restrictions are insane.
20	Did not answer #20, 22, 23 because I am unaware of the current state of those items and whether they are still functioning well or if replacement is necessary...
21	I think the money should be used to offset the high taxes. Also you need to specify dates of premium pay. Is that for a specified time period.
22	The West Wenham Park would be a fantastic addition to the town. Our middle school aged kids would greatly benefit from this. I hope we can allocate funds to make this project happen!
23	The line items with TBD should be removed. It is hard to grade an unknown number.
24	IRather than all of the above I support the recently approved School Feasibility study in the "other" section at the end of this survey. Wenham is already committed to this expense, it seems reasonable to spend ARPA money we have instead of borrowing and paying finance fees plus interest.
25	I support (10) School Feasibility Study. Wenham is already committed to this expense, it seems reasonable to spend ARPA money we have instead of borrowing and paying finance fees plus interest.
26	WHY DO WE GIVE MONEY TO NON PROFIT NON TOWN FUNDED BUSINESS, WENHAM MUSEUM
27	I support pandemic-related direct costs only. Distribution of the balance should be by a different process, preferably town meeting-driven
28	I support projects that incurred lost revenue; Not new projects and studies which should be handled through the annual budget
29	Please consider ARPA funds for the school feasibility study
30	would love to see some funds go towards the modernization of the athletic fields in town
31	I'm surprised that funding the school athletics infrastructure project isn't on the list of town priorities, when so many residents have indicated it is a high priority. An Iron Rail plan should be done after/in conjunction with the two towns' and school district's Master Planning processes when it's more clear what role it could play to fulfill outstanding needs. Doing it now would be premature. Likewise a water system survey should be done in conjunction with the regional water planning project currently underway, not independently. Thank you for soliciting community input!
32	Nothing on a school feasibility study?
33	While having up to date rescue equipment for the fire department is essential, wouldn't it make more sense to share equipment with Hamilton who's fire station is a mile up the road. Combing SCBA recharging stations and jaws of life equipment would be most cost effective for both towns. I suggest doing the Iron Rail study before investing any additional money repairing

34	Why isn't the school feasibility study money on as an option for ARPA money?? I would prefer not to use a debt exclusion, our taxes are high enough. I would put this as priority.
35	The cell service in our towns has gotten worse and worse and is truly a safety issue at this point. This MUST be on the HIGH priority list as it impacts 99% of residents every day.
36	Thank you for sending this survey out to all Wenham residents for their input. I understand how the school district budget operates outside of the town; however I find it continually frustrating that our schools' needs are not considered for opportunities like this. The state of our school buildings are in an extreme state of disrepair. It would make good financial sense to include the school feasibility study for at least a portion of these ARPA funds. I found it difficult to accurately assess these other options without a complete list to work from. Thank you.
37	Thanks for putting this survey out! Please can we look into a cell tower study to ensure that all residents are getting consistent, basic coverage? I can tell you that my house is in a dead zone regardless of what the old analysis says. Literally every call is interrupted or cut off. I am also certain that majority of neighbors suffer similar issues. There is supposedly a cell tower in the first church of wenham but I don't think it helps my property less than a mile away. I have tried to troubleshoot this issue and I don't get very far. it would be amazing if the Town made some effort to diagnose. Thank you!
38	School feasibility study?
39	I'd support money being spent on the feasibility study for the high school and middle school athletic fields. Also think the town should consider very strongly building a school complex on the Gordon Conwell property.
40	Return it back to the taxpayers by reducing taxes and next years budget. This is not free money.
41	Thanks!
42	I noticed that #7 presented at the Select Board meeting addressing audits, reporting, technology requirements, cleaning, and PPE does not seem to appear on this survey.
43	New HVAC equipment should be electric heating/cooling pump systems (vs fossil fuel) if economically possible.
44	In principle, I support using tax-payer funded ARPA relief funds for items related to the pandemic. The major item affected by the pandemic that I do not see on this list is that of education. School enrollment continues on a steady decline, only exacerbated by the pandemic, as many families opted out of the public school system for a variety of reasons. It is wise to have a master plan for the schools that will combine two elementary schools. We have continually increased our local taxes to the point that it is pricing families out. If we have pandemic relief funds, then we should use them for the school feasibility study and help reduce taxes on local families.
45	We ranked our top 10 in order of priority. FYI it isn't clear from the instructions whether that was the right approach but it seemed to be the only way to get the message across. Also some of these projects better belong on the operating budget or on a 5 year cap improvement plan rather than a one time infusion/special projects list.
46	Good luck and thank YOU 😊
47	Wenham Town Hall and the Police Station are brand new. Wenham Museum doesn't even fly the American Flag. This whole thing is disgusting! "Hey look at all this free money! Who's pocket can we put it in!"
48	I am very supportive of projects that have the potential to have a return (ie, redevelopment planning) and necessary infrastructure. Much as I appreciate the work of the police and fire during the pandemic, I don't think it is fair to single them out for premium pay over other in person employees, especially given the unknown price tag.
49	I do not support using the funds that will create structural budget deficits in future years. I also do not support funding capital equipment purchases with these funds as there is a mechanism to do that funding democratically at town meeting. I support the evaluation of Iron Rail and absolutely do not support any capital improvement in that property until a use analysis/redevelopment study is completed. As much as the west wenham playground idea is lovely, that seems to be a perfect place for a small commercial enterprise (with rezoning, of course) that can take a small step to diversifying our tax base. Youth would be better served to create space in a more "in town"/accessible location. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.
50	Promoting of green projects/initiatives.
51	Based on the slide deck presentation, most of these proposals do not qualify under the spirit of this Act. There are very specific infrastructure projects covered by this, but this list seems to include many wish list items that are not covered by this Act.
52	Not in support of items that may be eligible for grants, fee based departments, funding non-profits, or costs TBD. Support projects that are more costly and provide a base for future needs ie. IT. Support community request that ARPA funding be used for the feasibility study.
53	I understand all of these are important and I truly support ALL, though in today's world we NEED to prioritize as we do NOT know what tomorrow's economy will bring. The number one items should be related to saving people, and the safety of others which does include today's technology in some way.
54	Please support fire and police who entered our homes for health and safety reasons while we were all on lock down. They were at my property twice in spite of Covid worries. Library hvac is not that old
55	I would prefer to use funds for buildings used by the general public that have more use, like the public library, rather than the iron rail property that has few tenants and is in poor general condition. I would also like to request we use some funds to repair/replace Pingree Park tennis courts into joint use Tennis/ pickle courts. Thank you. LA
56	Full support of these funds to be used for the school feasibility study. It's rather absurd it isn't on this survey.

57	Let's see, The Town estimates a loss of \$75,000 and the federal government is giving them \$1,570,000. to compensate for the loss. Can someone get an economics 101 text book and look up the definition of inflation. I like this format very much. I wish the entire town budget could be handled this way.
58	ARPA funds should be used for the school feasibility study
59	What about the Pingree Park tennis courts resurfacing?
60	Please use some of the funds to cover Wenham's portion of the new school costs.
61	Strongly support the towns using funds to pay for the feasibility study for the cutler school project
62	Please set aside \$346,000 for Wenham's share of school feasibility study.
63	I will not consider Covid hazard pay for firefighters or police officers unless we provide hazard pay for our teachers. They were exposed every single day for over two years. The viral load of a single classroom is vastly higher than what police or firefighters encounter. I would support this if we did the same for teachers, otherwise, no.
64	Pay for the Cutler/Winthrop study - \$250,000 Please try to be a partner with the schools and not an adversary The 1st use cited in the ARPA doc is building new schools - let's follow the spirit and letter of the law It's also intended as stimulus money, not for anyone's general fund/free cash acct. economic multiplier effect We have 3 years to spend this money (12/2025) please don't rush Study best use for Iron Rail before pouring funds into projects I support Police/Fire/BoH COVID danger pay, but not at TBD
65	Money should be put aside to pay for Wenham's share of the school feasibility study.
66	It's really hard to determine the need of these requests without someone like FinCom rendering an opinion.
67	I've noticed the lack of AED/CPR preparedness in Wenham. There are no AEDs in public park areas other than Iron Rail, and if there are, signage is non-existent. We should be investing in community AED/CPR training initiatives as it's proven to save lives. I'm a consultant in this space and would be happy to donate my time to develop a better emergency preparedness program in the community.
68	ARPA funds should be used for the school feasibility study not overburdening the tax payer with new debt. No funds for lost revenue, soft costs, studies, non-profits etc. but only for needed plant and equipment needs. (Are the Library costs only Wenham's share?)
69	The West Wenham Park is important for the livability and equity in Wenham. Creating ADA access and a destination park in a recreationally challenged area of town is a wonderful use of ARPA funds in the vision of safe outdoor recreation with major health benefits.
70	Schools!!!