



WORKSESSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 19, 2021
To: Mayor and Members of the Town Council
From: Town Manager Laura Allen
Subject: ARPA Survey Questions

Background

On June 21, 2021, the Council adopted an ARPA Engagement Process to obtain community input on how the Town should spend the funding expected from the federal government (attached). Staff seeks comments from the Council on the proposed survey questions.

Fiscal Impact

This item is for discussion only.

Analysis

Staff sees this initial survey as an opportunity to help respondents understand what options the Town has in using the funds. Information regarding what the funding cannot be used for would be included, specifically:

1. Offset tax cuts.
2. Deposit into pension funds, rainy day funds (reserves).
3. Funding debt service, legal settlements, or matching funds.
4. General infrastructure spending (outside of broadband, water/sewer) unless under revenue loss provision.

The funding is intended to be spent on helping individuals and businesses recover from the pandemic.

To get a sense of which categories of eligible expenditures the community is interested in, staff proposes a combination of open ended and ranked choice questions:

Open ended:

- What are the top issues currently facing Berwyn Heights residents and businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What strategies and/or actions would be most effective in meeting the needs of residents and businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How can the Town of Berwyn Heights better support residents, families, employees, and businesses as we open to the public and continue to provide services?

Ranked choice:

Pick the top three areas where you feel help is most needed

- Housing Assistance
- Food/Nutrition
- Small Business Assistance
- Health or Mental Health Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Access to the Internet/Broadband
- Stormwater/Drainage
- Hazardous Duty Pay to Eligible Town employees
- Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change
- Other _____

Questions for the Council:

- Should the survey collect demographic data?

Next Steps

Staff seeks feedback from the Council on the survey questions, which will be placed in the Bulletin and E Newsletters as well as the website.