

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING
CHAPTER 90 MONEY AND UNACCEPTED STREETS**

WHEREAS the Town of Randolph has conducted a public survey concerning resident preferences for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by the Town of Randolph as part of the Federal Covid relief efforts; and

WHEREAS that survey reflects that a significant portion of respondents support spending ARPA funds on “Streets and Sidewalks” and identify that item as the most “Critical Issue” to them; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90, Section 34, creates a state aid program known as the “Chapter 90 Program” which provides funding to municipalities for the implementation of capital improvements on local public ways; and

WHEREAS the Chapter 90 Program is a reimbursement program, where municipalities pay for approved expenses up-front and receive reimbursement afterwards; and

WHEREAS funding levels for the Chapter 90 Program are established by the Massachusetts Legislature and approved by the Governor on an annual basis and, based on the amount approved, each of the Commonwealth’s 351 municipalities are allocated a portion of overall Chapter 90 Program dollars for each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, per the legislatively established formula, the amount of funding a municipality receives is based on local road mileage, population, and employment in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Town to receive credit for local road mileage under this formula, the road must be a locally accepted municipal public way; and

WHEREAS the Town of Randolph has many miles of “accepted” municipal public ways, but also has many miles of “unaccepted” ways; and

WHEREAS the Town of Randolph often bears the cost of maintenance of both accepted and unaccepted ways within the Town; and

WHEREAS the Town of Randolph does not receive any Chapter 90 reimbursement for any expenses incurred in the maintenance of unaccepted ways; and

WHEREAS the cost of changing the unaccepted ways into accepted municipal public ways that are eligible for Chapter 90 funds is an investment that will result in the receipt of additional Chapter 90 funds in future years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Randolph Town Council supports the expenditure of ARPA and other Town funds on efforts to increase the number of accepted ways in the Town of Randolph and specifically supports the following initiatives in furtherance of that effort:

1. Inclusion of a minimum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) in the annual operating budget for FY 2023 to supplement state-provided Chapter 90 funds, and inclusion of the same amount in future annual operating budgets for the same purpose, as those purposes are described further below.
2. In light of the lack of Chapter 90 support spending over the last four years, immediate allocation of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) in ARPA funds as a one-time expenditure to support Chapter 90 spending purposes, as those purposes are described further below.
3. The dedication of significant portions of these funds to a review and classification of all unaccepted streets in the Town of Randolph, including designating those unaccepted streets as: i) streets that could be accepted as municipal public ways with minimal legal, surveying and engineering work and that do not require construction, ii) streets that could be accepted as municipal public ways with significant legal, surveying or engineering work and that do not require construction, or iii) streets that could be accepted as municipal public ways with legal, surveying and engineering work and that will also require at least some construction.
4. Streets that could be accepted as municipal public ways with minimal legal, surveying and engineering work and that do not require construction should be prioritized and the funds described above should be used to bring those streets before the Town Council so that the Council may consider whether or not to accept those streets as municipal public ways.
5. As soon as any of the unaccepted streets has been accepted by the Town of Randolph, the Town should take immediate action to submit those new streets to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts so they can be included in the Chapter 90 Program funding formula.
6. The categories of “streets that could be accepted as municipal public ways with significant legal, surveying or engineering work and that do not require construction” and “streets that could be accepted as municipal public ways with legal, surveying and engineering work and that will also require at least some construction” should be reviewed and prioritized based on cost per mile to get those streets accepted. They should be presented to the Town Council for consideration for acceptance as municipal public ways in order of priority and, as soon as any of them has been accepted by the Town of Randolph, the Town should take immediate action to submit those new streets to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts so they can be included in the Chapter 90 Program funding formula.