Resolution: 2022-04 Introduced By: Councilor Jesse Gordon Aug 31, 2022

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

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

WHEREAS, funding levels for the Chapter 90 Program are established by the Massachusetts Legislature and approved by the Governer 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 te receipt of additional Chapter 90 funds in future years; and