



Measure #: 2024-022

TOWN COUNCIL MEASURE SUBMITTAL

Date: 9/18/2023

Submitted By: Town Manager

Telephone #: 508-699-0100

MEASURE DESCRIPTION:

Emergency Measure to Provide \$300,000.00 of Funding for Debris Removal in the Town of North Attleborough

Signed: _____

15SEP23

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

Scope and Nature of the Emergency:

North Attleborough has been impacted by devastating flooding and rain saturation over the past week. As a result, numerous areas in North Attleborough experienced flash flooding. The 10 Mile River overflowed in banks and impacted a number of properties in Town. As a result, the Town declared a state of emergency on 11 SEP 2023 and was followed by an emergency declaration of the Governor on 12 SEP 2023.

Purpose:

In response to the state of emergency declared by the Town on 11 SEP 2023 and the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency on 12 SEP 2023, the Town is proposing an emergency response measure to assist with debris removal. The purpose of this measure is to request \$300,000 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the urgent need for debris removal caused by the devastating flooding that occurred in our Town on September 11, 2023. The ARPA funds will be allocated to facilitate swift and efficient cleanup efforts, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community while aiding in its recovery.

Justification:

Emergency Response Necessity: The flooding on September 11, 2023, was a catastrophic event that resulted in significant damage to public and private property. Immediate debris removal is essential to restore normalcy to our community, protect public health, and mitigate further environmental risks. The debris poses a threat to public safety and hinders the town's recovery efforts.

ARPA Eligibility: The ARPA funding the Town currently retains is eligible for this response with no restrictions as revenue loss funding. The ARPA explicitly allows for funds to be used to address the economic fallout from such emergencies.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Requires a 2/3 Vote of those Town Councilors present.

ATTACHMENTS:

REFER TO SUB-COMMITTEE:

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PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION CONTINUED:

Community Welfare: The debris left in the wake of the flooding poses immediate and long-term risks to the health and well-being of our residents. It obstructs public roads, drainage systems, and may contain hazardous materials. The longer this debris remains unaddressed, the greater the risk of accidents, disease outbreaks, and further property damage.

Economic Recovery: Removing the debris promptly will expedite the town's recovery process. This, in turn, will help restore businesses and encourage investment in our community. A swift cleanup will signal to residents and potential investors that our town is committed to rebuilding and rejuvenation.

Environmental Preservation: The debris from the flooding poses environmental threats. It can lead to contamination of water sources, harm wildlife, and disrupt the local ecosystem. Prompt removal will help prevent long-term ecological damage and protect our natural environment.

Community Support: We have received overwhelming number of requests for support by those affected by the flood event. Residents are looking for swift action on this matter. Assisting with debris removal will demonstrate our commitment to their well-being and safety.

In conclusion, the ARPA funding request for \$300,000 to address debris removal is a critical step in rebuilding our community after the devastating flooding event of September 11, 2023. This allocation will allow us to swiftly and effectively remove debris, safeguard public health, support economic recovery, protect the environment, and fulfill our duty to the residents of our town during this difficult time.