

## Mellisa Seamans

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**From:** Rick Hiland <r.hiland@myfairpoint.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:13 PM  
**To:** Terry McCarthy; Matthew Plache; Kimberly J. Tessari  
**Cc:** Mellisa Seamans  
**Subject:** RE COUNTY ARPA FUNDS

**Importance:** High

Hello Commissioners,

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") which provides \$350 billion in additional funding for state and local governments was signed into law on March 11, 2021.

**Eligible uses of these funds include:**

- Revenue replacement for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent fiscal year prior to the emergency,
- COVID-19 expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19, including assistance to small businesses, households, and hard-hit industries, and economic recovery,
- Premium pay for essential workers,
- Investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Since Broadband infrastructure is ARPA qualified for funding, I would like to request that Carroll County Commissioners set aside \$30,000 from the \$9.5 Million allotted to the County for the hiring of a consultant to assist the Carroll County Planning Committee for a "Communications District".

As soon as SB 88 is signed by the Governor, which will simplify the appointment process and authority, Carroll County Broadband Committee intends to solicit all 19 Towns in the County to ask that their Select Boards appoint 2 representatives to this planning committee under RSA 53-G:2 Communications District Planning Committee; Formation and Responsibilities.

We feel that the hiring of a consultant will facilitate the work of the planning committee as we would need to get the approval of the NH Attorney General and hold "Public Hearings" in each Town prior to a vote to join the "Communications District" by each Town on their respective Warrants at Town Meeting in the spring of 2022.

We feel that this greatly helps our effort to get high speed fiber optic internet to everyone in Carroll County.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at anytime.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rick Hiland

Steve Knox

Co-Chairmen CCB

*Carroll County Broadband*