

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY
September 25, 2024

Agenda Item A-3

Municipal Energy Resiliency Program (MERP) Implementation Grant Application

Summary: The MERP is a program run through the State of Vermont Buildings and General Services Dept. The Implementation Grant is an up-to \$500k grant to “make municipally owned buildings more energy efficient”.

The Implementation Grants are available to cover replacement of HVAC systems, conversion to a renewable fuel source, envelope improvements, and lighting replacements.

Both Akeley Memorial Building and the VT Ski and Snowboard Museum are eligible for an application for the Implementation Grant, but given the extremely condensed schedule (current deadline is 9/27 – extended from 9/20) the State is requiring for this work due to limitations of ARPA funding, the only aspect staff has a level of comfort with and capacity to advance at this time is the Akeley HVAC Replacement, having the Mechanical and Electrical designs complete at this time.

It is unclear if taking advantage of this grant opportunity will delay completion of the Akeley HVAC systems replacement ahead of summer 2025 use of the theater. If an Implementation Grant application is approved, the potential impact to the schedule of Akeley HVAC replacement needs to be further understood and taken into consideration ahead of entering a Grant Agreement with the State of Vermont.

Town Plan Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact: This program is offered to Municipalities with no required local in-kind match. If the application is approved and a grant is awarded, this opportunity would offset the previously approved FY 25 Capitol Project for Akeley Building HVAC Replacement (\$485,000).

Recommendation: Move to approve staff to apply for the MERP Implementation Grant to replace the Akeley HVAC systems within the scope intended in the approved FY 25 Capitol Project.