



TOWN OF WARE

Planning & Community Development

126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082

t. 413.967.9648 ext. 120

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting Minutes from

Monday, October 18, 2021

Select Board Room, Town Hall

CDA Members Present: Chairman Danielle Souza, S.K. "Rob" Robinson,
Rhiannon Gresty

CDA Members Absent: John Carroll, Brandy Brusio

Guests: Ted Harvey PVPC (Remote)

Staff Present: Rob Watchilla, Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Chairman D. Souza called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Approval of meeting minutes from September 13th, 2021

Motion by R. Gresty to approve the minutes from September 13th, 2021. Seconded by R. Robinson. All in favor. Approved 3/0/2.

REVIEW FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

- Brief review of account summaries through September 30th, 2021.

Motion by R. Robinson to approve the financial accounts thorough September 30th, 2021. Seconded by R. Gresty. All in favor. Approved 3/0/2.

CDBG UPDATES

- FY19

T. Harvey from PVPC gave the new CDA Board Members some background information on the various CDBG grants. In terms of housing rehabilitation, there were nine (9) units total with eleven (11) funded projects. Housing rehabilitation is expected to be completed on December

1st, 2021. Not all of the funds were able to be used from FY19 CDBG funds and the final project utilizing these funds are the new streetlights for downtown.

- **FY20**

This grant is funding the Bank Street reconstruction project. There is a current supply issue in regard to piping material needed to replace the sewer and water lines on Bank Street. T. Harvey stated that the project will be put out to bid in a week or so and will be in by mid-November. ARPA funds will be used to help boost this project and will help with sewer/water line replacement and re-pavement of Park Avenue. T. Harvey mentioned that the FY20 CDBG grant may have to be extended in order to use the remaining funds.

- **FY20-CV**

The funding received for this grant came from the Cares Act. The microenterprises grant that is funded by the FY20-CV CDBG grant is operated out of Palmer through the Quabbin Valley Community Development Corporation (QV CDC). This grant also funds most of the current social service programs in Ware. There are currently no new updates for the Town of Ware in regard to this particular grant.

- **FY21**

The application for the FY21 CDBG grant was submitted on September 10th, 2021. The Town will most likely not hear back until around the new year, with a January 1st, 2022 contract. This grant will fund the Façade Improvement Program (FIP), several housing rehabilitation projects, and four (4) social service programs. This grant was jointly applied with the Town of Hardwick.

Old/New Business

- **Local Rapid Recovery Program (LRRP) – update**

The town had worked with three subject matter experts (SME's) that offered advice on how to utilize the LRRP funding. The end result was a plan that suggests implementable projects. The deadline for project submissions is December 17th, 2021.

- **First Time Homebuyers Grant**

D. Souza briefly discussed the first-time homebuyer's grant. She mentioned that the requirements of the grant should be made more flexible in order to encourage more first-time homebuyers to apply.

Ancillary Discussion

- **Section 8 housing choice voucher**

The CDA briefly discussed this matter and identified the Ware Housing Authority (WHA) as an essential piece to the Section 8 voucher program. D. Souza mentioned that Buy Ware Now would be a good facilitator for this specific program as well. The CDA suggested that future collaboration with the WHA would be beneficial. R. Robinson asked of R. Watchilla to write a letter to the WHA asking for their willingness to collaborate with the CDA.

Motion by R. Gresty to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm. Seconded by R. Robinson. All in favor. Approved 3/0/2.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes from October 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Watchilla

Director of Planning & Community Development

Minutes Approved on: _____

Souza _____

Carroll _____

Bruso _____

Robinson _____

Gresty _____