



TOWN OF WARE

Planning & Community Development

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Minutes from February 13, 2017

Community Development Authority

Meeting held at Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA

Authority members present:	B. Adams, D. Gravel, T. Opalinski, P. Opalinski, B. Cooper (6:33)
Staff present:	Rubén Flores-Marzán, Judi Mosso
Public:	Stuart Beckley (Town Manager), Sheila Cuddy (QV CDC), Alexandria Martinez (QV CDC), Matthew Carr (Hardwick Youth Center), Catherine Carr (Hardwick Youth Center), Julie Jedy (Hillside/Highland Village), Sue Casine (YMCA)

D. Gravel called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and introduced the new Director, Rubén Flores-Marzán.

1. FFY2017 CDBG application
 - a. Family Support Services RFP responses - The CDA received six responses to the RFP:
 - Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force
 - The Literacy Project's Ware Adult Learning Center
 - Behavioral Health Networks' PATCH program at Valley Human Services
 - Hardwick Senior Outreach
 - Hardwick Youth Center
 - Tri-Community YMCA's Kids Club in Ware

The three new applicants were asked to attend tonight and provide summaries about their programs:

Hardwick Senior Outreach (applied for \$10,425) – Sheila Cuddy and Alexandria Martinez from the QV CDC presented the program. Current program helps low to moderate-income seniors live independently; has 14 providers; connects to other services and Hardwick Council on Aging. Other funding sources include private family

foundation, Worcester Elder Services; RFP response was reduced greatly in order to address only foundational elements of program.

Hardwick Youth Center (applied for \$8,000) – Catherine Carr spoke on behalf of Liz Reilly (Activity Director). Center highlights:

- Ages 4-19
- Limited support from Town of Hardwick
- Programs:
 - Summer art, ages 4-12, 30 kids w waitlist
 - Robotics camp, ages 11-14, 15 kids
 - Youth teams summer camp, ages 16-19, 20 kids
- All summer camps include field trips for enrichment
- Planned camping/team building trip to Maine
- Prior students return to volunteer at Center
- Hardwick is 51% low to moderate income so most participants fall in that category; youth served is representative of the population
- No information provided on membership or intake
- Would like to expand into Ware
- Minimal public transportation is prohibitive

Tri-Community YMCA Summer Program (applied for \$14,400) – Sue Casine (Youth Director in Southwick) and Julie Jediny (Hillside and Highland Villages) spoke about the program. Program highlights:

- They have received funding from:
 - Project Bread
 - Baystate Health
 - Town of Ware Community Development Authority (Program Income)
 - Country Bank
 - MA Housing
 - YMCA
- Meredith Management provides meeting space
- 15-20 attendees
- Program provides positive environment and impact on housing community
- Mostly Ware residents; open to others
- Year round program; summer is 3Xs/week
- Ages 7-14; older residents return to volunteer
- MA Housing will continue funding through September 2017
- Unable to provide total budget

In order for the YMCA to expand to Ware, increased demand and additional funding is necessary.

The CDA took all input under advisement and rendered a decision later that evening.

Motion by P. Opalinski to:

- 1.) include the following social services in the FY2017 CDBG application:
 - Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force
 - The Literacy Project’s Ware Adult Learning Center
 - Behavioral Health Networks’ PATCH program at Valley Human Services
 - Hardwick Senior Outreach
 - Hardwick Youth Center
- 2.) apply for the maximum amount for the housing rehabilitation portion of the application

Seconded by B. Adams. So voted 5/0/0.

There was lengthy discussion about the Property Pride program.

Motion by B. Cooper to un-commit \$20,000 from Program Income for the Property Pride Program. Seconded by B. Adams. So voted 5/0/0.

Motion by B. Adams to provide a 1:1 match for any new donors (including monetary donations from Meredith Management) to the Tri-Community YMCA Summer Program, from the Program Income account, up to \$8,000. Seconded by P. Opalinski. So voted 5/0/0.

- b. Application checklist
 - c. PVPC report / final budget – the CDA reviewed the latest budget and memo from PVPC. There was discussion about each line item, revisions, social services and Ware’ Local Admin Portion (increased to \$48,000).
2. Slum and blight discussion - Tracy and Dave will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on February 21 to support the slum and blight designation. Judi wrote a lengthy memo to the CDA which demonstrates support of the designation as it relates to Town and department activity across the decades.
3. Administrative
 - a. Minutes of January 9, 2017 – **Motion** by T. Opalinski to accept the January minutes as presented. Seconded by B. Adams.
 - b. Financial statement
 - i. Program Income commitments – discussed below
4. Updates
 - a. CDBG
 - i. FY2014 High Street – in close out
 - ii. FY2015 WRV (HR report) – brief discussion about open projects and timely expenditure.

- iii. FY2016 Prospect Street/Bank & Spring (HR report) – There will be a community meeting on February 27 to review the Prospect Street project.
5. New Business – none.
6. Other (any discussion and action may be postponed until next meeting) – none.
7. Adjourn – **Motion** by T. Opalinski to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Seconded by B. Adams

*Respectfully submitted by
Judi Mosso, MPA
Assistant to the Director*

Documents reviewed:

Minutes of January 9, 2017
Financial statement
FY2017 CDBG draft budget
RFP responses from:

- Hardwick Senior Outreach
- Hardwick Youth Center
- Tri-Community YMCA's Kids Club in Ware

Documents received:

none