

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Public Hearing
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
April 19, 2021

Minutes of the public hearings held by the Board of Trustees on April 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton.

Present: Mayor Nickerson, Trustee Muller, Trustees Simonds, Trustee Humphrey and Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier.

Absent: Trustee Lawrence.

Visitors: Joyce Humphrey. Brendon Becker from Lamont Engineer via Phone Conference.

- Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Mayor Nickerson.
- Mayor Nickerson opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 pm, to hear public comments on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects: 6CP100-19, Infrastructure Asset Management Plan including \$40,000.00 in CDBG grant funds the Village has received through New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR). This provides resources to eligible local governments for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons.
- Brendon Becker from Lamont Engineer explained the work detail that was done for the village that pertained to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). He stated that an evaluation was performed on the village's water system and street assessment. An aerial mapping was performed of the entire water system within the village, along with GPS locations of the water main to the springs located at Vallonia Springs. This gathered information will allow us to see which streets are in the worst conditions, for repair purposes.
- Mayor Nickerson asked if anyone in attendance had any questions, pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects: 6CP100-19, Infrastructure Asset Management Plan including \$40,000.00 in CDBG grant funds that the Village has received. There were no questions or comments made by the attending public.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close the public hearing at 6:14 pm, on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects: 6CP100-19, Infrastructure Asset Management Plan including \$40,000.00 in CDBG grant funds the Village has received through New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR). Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Mayor Nickerson opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 pm, to hear public comments on the Village of Afton's community development needs, and to discuss the possibility of submitting one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications for the fiscal year 2020 funds. This program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR), and will make available to eligible local governments approximately \$20 million. NYS Community Development Block Grant funding is for

Public Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Community Planning, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons.

- Trustee Muller asked Mr. Brendon Becker if it is too late for 2020 funding. Mr. Becker stated that due to Covid-19 restrictions, Governor Cuomo withheld all application processes until now. Mr. Becker stated that the funding process for last year has just opened as of March.
- Trustee Humphrey asked Mr. Brendon Becker what classifications fall under Community Development. Mr. Becker stated that Community Planning, such as water system, which was what we applied for last year, Infrastructure of streets and water main repair. Plus public facility projects, such as a community center or a community daycare center
- Trustee Muller asked Mr. Becker what the impact of grant conditions would be on the Village of Afton. Mr. Becker stated with the micro grant enterprise there would be a required 10% cash contribution towards whatever the grant requires. The Village would not be responsible. It would be the responsibility of those who receive the grant funds to come up with the required 10%.
- Trustee Muller said that it is her understanding that the grant is for low income employees. Whether this be a full time 40 hour a week position or a part time. Mr. Becker stated that yes, at least 1 full time position with 40 hours a week or 2 part time at 20 hours each employees has to have low income.
- Trustee Muller asked Visitor Joyce Humphrey if she has businesses that are interested in a startup business within her building, If so are they aware that they must comply with the required 10% towards the business startup funds set forth by the micro grant enterprise. Mrs. Humphrey stated all willing prospective businesses are aware that they must comply with the required 10% funding fees.
- Visitor Joyce Humphrey stated that currently she has 5 businesses who are interested in startup businesses in her building. Trustee Muller asked Mrs. Humphrey if she would be giving the potential businesses a renewable lease. Mrs. Humphrey stated that she has currently signed a 5 year lease with a woman who will be running a bakery.
- Trustee Muller asked Mr. Becker who would be administering the grant. Mr. Becker stated that there would be a 5% allowable funds for the administering included in the grant funds. Trustee Muller questioned the direct benefit of having the businesses within the building owned by Mrs. Humphrey.
- Trustee Humphrey asked Mr. Becker if the Village would be committed to anything if they choose to submit the preapplication at this time. Mr. Becker stated no.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Joyce Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has been working with Kerri Green from Commerce of Chenango to assist with potential business placements.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to submit a preapplication for the micro grant. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to adjourn at 6:40 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer