

The Town of Bethel Special Town Board Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Bethel Senior Center by Town Supervisor Daniel Sturm.

Council Members Present: Robert Blais
Victoria Simpson
Denise Frangipane

Absent: Richard Crumley

Others Present: Leon Smith, BLDC Manager
Connie Keller, Executive Director, SC Literacy Ctr.
Gary Couch, Board Member, SC Literacy Ctr.
Larry McCall, Literacy Ctr. Student & Volunteer

Public Hearing 7:45 p.m. - 2010 CDBG Grant Application

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to open Public Hearing at 7:45, seconded by Ms. Frangipane, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Mr. Smith distributed Resolution and overviewed the community needs. Mr. Smith also described the Community Development Block Grant program.

Discussion was held on other needs that may be eligible for funding.

Rita Sheehan, Town Clerk, made the following suggestion: local historical museum, visitor's center, pre-school/day care center, and a before and after school latch key program.

Denise Frangipane suggested a meeting room, library/bookstore.

Mr. Smith reviewed three options for a Youth/Literacy Center

Option 1: Renovate Youth Center – too poor shape to renovate.

Option 2: Rent or lease space in Dr. Duggan School

Option 3: Install a new modular building on Town property behind the Senior Center

Mr. Smith reviewed the layout/floor plan of the building for Option #3. Glenn Smith, Town Engineer, prepared an estimate of \$380,000. Mr. Smith noted there are extra points for a green building. Also there is a 5 extra points for complementing our Main Street plan. The cost is \$190 square feet

Square Footage of Modular: Youth Center – 780; Literacy Center – 756, for a total of 1536 sq. ft. Total square footage with storage, etc. is 2,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Blais asked if it included a well. Mr. Smith water will come from Senior Center and Senior Center gets water from court.

Connie Keller commented it is an opportunity for us to expand and work together, it is just a start. The Literacy programs are free.

Bob Barrett and his wife June have been a Literacy Center volunteer for years. The idea of expanding the literacy center was from the community visioning from the Sullivan Renaissance Programs.

Denise Frangipane this is an opportunity to collaborate with poetry story hour, teaching nutrition; cooking classes, community garden, etc. The senior housing close by for access to residents.

The Literacy Center has committed to an annual fundraiser.

Larry McCall can't go wrong with literacy, helps you be a better person, 54 years old and just learned to read. People with literacy problems hide; you get things done with reading. He cried when he read his first book. He will always be reading until the day he dies. He never thought he would never learn to read.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to close Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Blais, put to a vote and carried 4 – 0.

Resolution Authorizing an CDBG 2010 Application

**RESOLUTION OF TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL
AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT AND THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development of the United States is authorized, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to make grants to states and other units of general local government to help finance Community Development Programs, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Bethel participate in aforesaid Community Development program; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the Town of Bethel seeks to make application for a Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) through the CDBG program as administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, attached to this Resolution is a CDBG application to the New York Office of Community Renewal seeking CDBG funds for the purchase and installation of a modular building to serve as a Youth Center for the Town and a Literacy Center operated by the Sullivan County Literacy Volunteers organization and any other purposes set forth in the application (the “Application”) ; and

WHEREAS, the Town conducted a public hearing on the 15th day of April, 2010, pursuant to advance public notice duly published in the official newspaper of the Town, for the purposes of obtaining citizens’ views regarding community development and housing needs and the Town will conduct at least one additional public hearing to solicit citizens’ views regarding the development of program activities and program performance review; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Bethel hereby authorizes the Town to make application to the New York Office of Community Renewal seeking CDBG funds for the purposes set forth above and in the attached Application; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Supervisor of the Town of Bethel is hereby identified as the official representative of the Town of Bethel to fulfill the purposes expressed in this Resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Supervisor of the Town of Bethel is authorized to sign the Application, or a version that is substantially similar thereto, on behalf of the Town of Bethel and submit said Application, and all understandings and assurances contained therein, to the New York Office of Community Renewal and to act in connection with the submission of the Application, to complete any remaining tasks associated therewith or to provide any such additional information as may be required to complete the Application or for the receipt of CDBG funds; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Bethel shall administer and conduct the grant in compliance with Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Fair Housing Act, and other applicable laws; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Bethel as a cooperating unit of local government hereby adopts and will enforce:

a) a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and

b) a policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within jurisdictions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the execution and delivery of the Application for grant funds for the construction of the Youth Center and Literacy Center is a type II action under SEQRA in accordance 6 NYCRR 617.5(b)(7) and the proposed action is not subject to environmental review because it involves the construction of a nonresidential facility with less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area and is otherwise consistent with applicable land use controls.

Motion by Councilman Victoria Simpson, seconded by Councilman Denise Frangipane and adopted upon a roll call vote as follows:

Robert Blais	Voting	Aye
Richard Crumley	Voting	Absent
Vicky Simpson	Voting	Aye
Denise Frangipane	Voting	Aye
Daniel Sturm	Voting	Aye

Duly adopted by 4 ayes, 0 nays the 15th day of April, 2010.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Frangipane, put to a vote and carried 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk