



Community Development Subcommittee

Economic and Community Development Commission

Special Meeting

February 20, 2014

The Community Development Subcommittee of the Economic and Community Development Commission conducted a special meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2014 in Town Council Chambers of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT pursuant to a notice duly posted. The special meeting immediately followed the conclusion of a subcommittee public hearing conducted earlier in the evening in Council Chambers.

Members Present: Jason Santi, Fourth District Councilman, Subcommittee Chair; Brian Dempsey, Fifth District Councilman; and Stephanie Philips, Third District Councilman
Members Absent: none

Also Present: C. Duncan Yetman, Jr., Community Development Administrator

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Santi at 7:35 PM.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 23, 2013.

Ms. Philips made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Santi and approved unanimously.

III. CDBG Budget Status Report Update

Mr. Yetman began by noting that a large portion of the Town's line of credit is tied up in projects at Stonybrook Gardens. He explained that this is partly the reason why the Cooperative elected not to apply for additional funding this year. He then informed members of the status of other projects including Senior Services Van Driver, Perry House, CT Air and Space Museum, and others. Mr. Santi asked that Mr. Yetman put together draft language for making the Residential Rehabilitation Program one that was targeted to specific low-mod income areas of Town and not a town-wide program, as it is now. Mr. Yetman noted that any changes to the Program Guidelines would require the approval of the Town Council. He will prepare a draft for consideration at the March 2014 CD Subcommittee meeting.

IV. Discussion of Proposed Activities to Include in CDBG Action Plan for 2014 Program Year (Year 40 Program)

Mr. Santi asked members for their thoughts on a proposed plan. Hearing no immediate thoughts from the other members, Mr. Santi offered a proposal to fund

certain public service activities. Ms. Philips made a public service allocation proposal in response and asked for more details about the Emerge, Inc. request. Mr. Yetman explained how due to the federal sequester, Emerge's McKinney-Vento homeless assistance funding is at risk of being lost. Their request for funding is basically a contingency request in case this happens, but they will probably not find out until the summer, after our Action Plan is submitted. Mr. Yetman suggested that they could ostensibly fund the Emerge request with a contingency line item. A contingency line item had been used in the past by CD Subcommittee's predecessor agency, the Community Development Agency. This seemed acceptable to the members and a preliminary allocation of public service dollars was approved, using all \$78,750 that the Town had available under the cap, based on the \$525,000 total allocation figure that they were using for planning purposes.

Assuming that Planning and Administration would be funded at the 20% cap, the discussion then moved to housing and other community development activities.

After some discussion, which included a proposal (**later found to be problematic**) by Mr. Yetman to float fund several activities with \$60,000 allocated last program year to the CT Air and Space Museum, the Committee developed a proposed plan for public comment. Mr. Santi asked for a motion, made by Ms. Philips and seconded by Mr. Dempsey to fund the following activities:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Public Services	
South End Community Center (SECC)	\$40,000
Emerge, Inc. - supportive services for Emerge 1	\$0
Stratford Community Services - bilingual Y&F counselor	\$17,500
Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust - housing counseling	\$5,000
Sterling House Community Center - Resource Worker	\$4,500
Center for Family Justice - Family Strengthening Services Program	\$5,000
Contingency for funding potential projects, as needed	\$6,750
Total Public Services:	\$78,750
Housing	
Stratford Housing Authority - vacant unit painting	\$5,000
Stratford Housing Authority - vacant unit repair	\$15,000
Catholic Charities - Bethlehem House I & II rehabilitation	\$35,000
Residential Rehabilitation Program	\$15,000
Total Housing:	\$70,000
Public Improvements	
2350 Stratford Avenue - Removal of coal silos	\$150,000
Stratford Senior Services - Wellness Park	\$0
Stratford United Methodist Church - handicap access	\$0
First Baptist Church Development Corporation - Family Life Village	\$0
Stratford Academy/Johnson House Playground	\$0
Stratford Recreation - Water Park in the South End	\$50,000
Stratford Recreation - Picnic Shelter, Juliette Low Park	\$40,000

Sidewalk Improvements Project	\$86,250
Stonybrook Field Improvements	\$5,000
Total Public Improvements:	\$331,250
<u>Planning and Administration</u>	
Management/Oversight of Program	\$105,000
Total Planning and Administration:	\$105,000
Program Total:	\$585,000

After the motion was approved, Mr. Yetman said he would investigate the steps on the float funding and get back to members as to whether there was a need to conduct the regularly-scheduled February 25, 2014 meeting.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Santi entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Philips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dempsey and the meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



C. Duncan Yetman, Jr.
Community Development Administrator