

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2013
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
8:00 AM**

Chairman Stewart called the Ashland Board of Selectmen (Board) meeting to order at 8AM. **Members present:** Jeanette Stewart, Philip Preston, and Normand DeWolfe.

Others Present: Paul Branscombe, Pat Crowell, Donna Lane, members of the public.

The Chairman opened the **Public Hearing on the Proposed Project** at 8:02AM. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Lane earlier had passed out informational packets to the people in the audience.

She explained that Community Development Block Grant funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA). Up to \$500,000 annually is available for economic development, up to \$500,000 for public facility and housing projects, and up to \$350,000 for emergency activities. Up to \$12,000 is available per feasibility study grants. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low and moderate income persons.

The purpose of this first public hearing is a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant Housing Funds/Public Facility Funds. The CDBG funds will be subgranted to Soldier On, Inc., or an affiliate, for sitework in support of up to 50 units of affordable veteran's housing and/or acquisition at 105 Riverside Drive. The town will retain up to \$25,000 for administrative costs.

This project conforms with Ashland's Housing and Community Development Plan's Goal of: Housing – Encourage a varied stock of safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing for persons of all age and income groups. (Short-term and Long-term goal).

Ms. Lane asked for **Public Comments:** There were several questions. She explained that if the project doesn't happen, the funding will not go through. She was asked what the minimum amount of units was. She replied that there was no minimum but it is proposed up to 50 units. She said that the Planning Board meeting scheduled for tonight would explain in detail the units. It is permanent

affordable housing and all services are delivered to them. The units would be owned, not rental units. Regular real estate taxes would be paid. There will be no children in the school system.

The Chairman closed the first part of the public hearing at 8:09AM. Preston seconded. All in favor.

The Chairman opened the second part of the Public Hearing on the **Housing and Community Development Plan** at 8:10AM. Preston seconded. All in favor.

Ms Lane explained that municipality's must have a Housing and Community Development Plan to request CDBG funds. The proposed Housing and Community Development Plan for Ashland:

TOWN OF ASHLAND
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Adopted: July 10, 2013

The Town of Ashland commits to the following goals to meet its Housing and Community Development needs:

Goal: Encourage a varied stock of safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing for persons of all age and income groups. (Short-term and Long-term goal).

Goal: Encourage economic development activities to increase quality industrial and commercial development. Encourage the expansion and retention of employment opportunities for residents. (Short-term and Long-term goal).

Goal: Encourage municipal and private water and wastewater systems that are safe, sanitary and that meet DES regulations. (Short-term and Long-term goal).

Goal: Preserve and promote the town's historically and culturally significant structures. (Short-term and Long-term goal).

Goal: Promote activities that protect the health and safety of residents and visitors. (Short-term and Long-term goal).

As a matter of policy, Ashland will minimize the involuntary displacement of households from their neighborhoods.

These goals are consistent with the Town of Ashland's Master Plan and local ordinances.

Any federal CDBG grant funds awarded to address any of these goals shall be expended consistent with national objectives and shall, at a minimum, provide improved housing in accordance with Section 8 standards, be used for public facility projects, employment opportunities, or feasibility studies. All CDBG funded projects, shall

primarily benefit low and moderate income persons or households, and shall not benefit moderate income persons or households to the exclusion of low income persons or households.

Ms. Lane asked for Public Comment. There was none.

The Chairman closed the second part of the Public Hearing at 8:13AM. Preston seconded. All in favor.

The Chairman opened the third part of the Public Hearing **Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan** at 8:14AM. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Ms Lane explained that this Plan states in general, that if the Town were to undertake a CDBG project which involved displacement and resulting relocation they would follow the Uniform Relocation Act requirements. The Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan outlines the measures they would take to find comparable, housing for persons (or businesses) displaced and/or relocated.

Ms. Lane asked for Public Comment. There was a question about what antidisplacement meant. Ms Lane explained. Ms. Smith, a state representative from the area mentioned that she has seen other facilities and was in favor.

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing at 8:18AM and thanked Ms. Lane for coming in and explaining the process. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stewart called the Ashland Board of Selectmen (Board) meeting to order at 8:18AM. Preston seconded. All in favor.

The Chairman motioned to adopt the Housing and Community Development Plan. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Chairman Stewart motioned to adopt the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Preston seconded. All in favor.

Chairman Stewart motioned to approve the submittal of the application **and** authorize the Chairman, Board of Selectmen to sign and submit the CDBG application, and upon approval of the CDBG application, authorize the Chairman, Board of Selectmen to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract. Preston seconded. All in favor.

APPROVALS

Signed Manifests – Payroll - \$17,016.07
Accounts Payable - \$139,030.82
Welfare - \$2015.93
Signed items in the Selectmen Signature File

OLD BUSINESS - None**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Stewart announced that a new Building Inspector has been hired. His name is James VanValkenburgh.

Tim Paquette, Public Works Director, asked to speak about West Street. He explained that work needs to be done to the street before it can be paved. He said that he has a quote from Don Latulippe to do the job of replacing the catch basin and culvert. Mr. Preston had several questions. He asked why the job needed to go to a contractor and why the Public Works department couldn't do the job. Mr. Paquette said that his department was behind because of the wet weather and that it was better for Latulippe to do it. Mr. Paquette asked if the paving of West St had to go out to bid. Chairman Stewart said that the ordinance could be waived according to legal. At this point, the Town Administrator, Paul Branscombe, told the Board that he had not seen any of the documents that Mr. Paquette had shown to the Board. The money to reconstruct West Street would come out of the Capital Reserve.

Mr. Branscombe asked the Board about an e-mail he received from Corinne from the Timeshares on North Ashland Road. She said that it has always been a policy that the people at the timeshares would pay the \$2.00 beach fee. The Board agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eli Badger thanked the board and Mr. Branscombe for their consideration and professionalism in interviewing and choosing a Building Inspector.

Next meeting scheduled for July 17, 2013 @ 8:30 am in the Town Office

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Stewart motioned to adjourn at 8:58AM. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.