

March 24, 2016

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the Orange County Community Development Program (HUD). Said public hearing was held on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Sweeton opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Supervisor Michael Sweeton  
Councilman Floyd DeAngelo  
Councilman Russell Kowal  
Councilman James Gerstner  
Councilman Mickey Shuback

Attorney for the Town, Jay Myrow – Absent

**LEGAL NOTICE:** The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on March 14, 2016. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**SUSAN FERRO - Executive Director, Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center. Letter to Supervisor and Town Board requesting help with two (2) projects. 1. \$50,000 to purchase 2500' of white PVC fencing material and 2. \$50,000 to purchase a John Deere (MY2015) 5055E Utility Tractor.**

Supervisor Sweeton – These projects are required to meet one of three national objectives to be eligible. The first would be that it has to benefit low or moderate income persons below 80% of the county median. You have to demonstrate this benefit to the area served by the project must be low income according to the 2010 census data which shows the income status by block group. Or you can do a community canvas survey to generate the data. Or that it has to aid in the preventional elimination of a slum or blight and the third criteria that could meet or would meet is an urgent community needs. Projects must meet specific HUD criteria to be considered an urgent need. They must be of a recent origin of one year, be a serious threat to public health and safety or be beyond the financial capability of the municipality. Now historically the Town of Warwick the greater town not including the villages has not qualified income wise for any of these HUD Grant Projects. Historically we've supported organizations that do meet the requirements in our town and those generally have been the Warwick Community Bandwagon Community Center located in the Village of Warwick and Winslow Therapeutic Riding both of which meet one of the three criteria's. Winslow deals and services children and adults with disabilities through their programming and the Community Center qualify by virtue of service to low to moderate income

residents. Those two have been supported by the Town Board and successful mostly over the years in being funded. Last year only one of them was funded due to continued cutbacks by the federal government and HUD on the amount of money they allocate for these programs. I had a meeting this afternoon with the community development director and he told me the HUD funding for these projects this year is just slightly less about \$35,000 then last year. That number has shrunk from years past so its going to be another tight year. We do have two submissions from organizations and I'll read them. This is from the Community Center, "The Warwick Valley Community Center is requesting additional HUD funding in 2017 to continue renovating and upgrading our 11 Hamilton Avenue facility. Our top priority project this year is floor repairs in the amount of \$115,000 and it would be the continuation of the ongoing flooring repairs we begun in 2016 and in addition to the obvious aesthetic issues the floors need repairs because they are damaged and subject to trip and fall accidents and they would appreciate our support. The other project that was submitted to us came from Winslow Therapeutic Riding and they state their mission is to improve the bodies, mind and spirits of children and adults with cognitive, physical and emotional disabilities. Through the use of the horse and Therapeutic Riding research shows that the rider can experience an increase in strength, flexibility, balance and coordination. It can also, help breathing and circulation, build self-esteem, foster independence and increase socialization. In 2015 they had an outstanding year where they provided 225 lessons weekly to riders with disabilities and this was a 40% increase over 2014. They are requesting support for two projects, one for \$50,000 to purchase 2500' of white PVC fencing material and also \$50,000 to purchase a John Deere (MY2015) 5055E Utility Tractor to handle the larger hay bales that they are now using for feed for the horses. The current 12 year old tractor is not suitable for the current needs, such as stacking the round bales of hay into the new hay barn, and removing the large amount of manure from the paddocks." Those are the two projects that have come before us. We had an additional project I don't have that tonight so what I'm going to suggest to the Board is we keep the hearing open until our next meeting to give enough time to submit a project to Community Development. Those are the only two projects we did receive so at this point I will open the floor for any public comment or suggestions or projects that might qualify. The other thing that the public should know is a municipality can only submit in a one year funding request \$125,000 or \$325,000 in a three year multi-year project. Obviously if the request is greater then that number we will have a decision to make as to the extent of either or, or both that we want to support in an application. We are the applicant in this case and they would sub-recipients and that's the way the Community Development deals with it. We help them still take their submission of their application and then we administer the paperwork that passes through to them and they do all of the betting of bids and everything else. Seeing no other comment then I would suggest we keep the hearing open and continue it until our next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> for the publics information. If they have someone out there in the public if our papers publicize it we'll put it on our website if you have a project that you feel meets the national criteria of one of three you can submit it to my office and we'll get it to the Board.

**There were no comments from the Board or the public for or against this public hearing.**

**ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman DeAngelo, seconded Councilman Shuback, that the public hearing be adjourned until the April 14<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:25 p.m.  
03-25-16 CP**

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**Eileen Astorino, Town Clerk**