

April 28, 2011

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, April 28, 2011 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Sweeton opened the public hearing at 7:22 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Michael Sweeton
Councilman Floyd DeAngelo
Councilman Leonard DeBuck
Councilman James Gerstner
Councilman Mickey Shuback**

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on April 20, 2011. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – Generally in the past, for the public’s information, we’ve supported work at Winslow Therapeutic Riding and the Warwick Valley Community Center as well as our own Senior Center, which is behind us here at Town Hall. The purpose tonight is to hear ideas and suggestions for projects for this upcoming year. This is a HUD Program and there is an income basis to eligible projects, projects for seniors or projects for people with disabilities generally qualifying and that is what we are here to do tonight. I know we have some folks in the audience that have some ideas.

Virginia G. Mazza-Loomis – Executive Director, Winslow Therapeutic Riding Unlimited, Inc., 328 Route 17A, Warwick, NY 10990 – We are asking this year for \$25,000 for general maintenance. Every dime that we raise ourselves goes right to the children, so this HUD Grant is a blessing and I was thinking that we had a new facility and I realized it’s now ten years old, so in looking around we made a list of not major things, but things that need to be tended so that they don’t become major. One of the things will be painting inside and refurbishing some of the furniture that’s kind of old and that sort of thing.

Supervisor Sweeton – Maybe you could remind the Board of some of the things or projects you’ve done in the past. I know fencing was done.

Virginia G. Mazza-Loomis – Fencing was done and with the Subtle Water people and for this particular funding we did drainage improvement so that the water wouldn’t go into the road. We bought a bus, we bought furniture and we’ve done a lot of things almost every year.

Councilman Gerstner – You’ve worked on the stables.

Virginia Mazza-Loomis – Oh yes, more than one and the paddocks and we’re still working on the paddocks. We are doing tree clearing to make some more room for our horses.

Supervisor Sweeton – You’ve got a great program there and it’s amazing to see the results that you do produce.

Virginia Mazza-Loomis – We had in spite of many snow days this spring or this winter we’ve served over 2,500 rides so far to date. I remember now we got a tractor, we got a gator, a plow for doing the paddocks out back; it won’t do the parking lot. We repaired the storage shed, so we’ve done some major stuff with this money and we’re very, very, very grateful.

Supervisor Sweeton – And you’re good at all the reports and things to, so that helps make it flow a little easier.

Virginia Mazza-Loomis – My problem is getting payment back. Has anybody come up with a solution for that?

Supervisor Sweeton – They’re tough on the time frame.

Virginia Mazza-Loomis – I thought maybe there was something economically wrong.

Supervisor Sweeton – No, the money flows to the County and they are the ones who handle the disbursement; we deal with them but.....

Virginia Mazza-Loomis – I just thought there was a different answer. Thank you very much.

Supervisor Sweeton – Thank you.

Councilman Gerstner – Thank You.

Denice Davis – I am very new to this process, so you’ll have to forgive me and I’ve never come asking for money before; it’s totally new.

Supervisor Sweeton – That’s OK.

Denice Davis – I am a business owner in Town and a parent to in Pine Island. With the whole budget issue with the school and once again Pine Island I became newly interested in what was going on in our Town as far as our education is concerned. It was very disturbing to me to find out exactly what was happening. I understand why we had the cuts that we had and what’s going on in contractual obligations and all of that, but what I couldn’t understand is nobody came up with any kind of resolution to bring back revenue back into the school system. I made it a bit of a mission to figure out how we can do that. I came up with a project called “Whole Kids Education Foundation” which would be a nonprofit organization which I filed for incorporation and filing with the Department of Education to have approval from them to use the word education in the filing, so that’s in the process right now to create fundraising programs and various different things so that we can filter it back through into the community and to the school system. One of the

projects that we're looking at to do is to create a juice bar and an organic café solely operated by the youth in our community with managerially oversee. I spoke with Dr. Ray Bryant to create and implement a cooperative education program, which we don't have in our school district that will allow these kids to come in and get real life work experience and some kind of entrepreneurial skills and learn something outside of what they are getting in the school district. We can raise these monies through this café and juice bar that would be open to the public. We would also grab all of our suppliers and all of our ingredients and all of our produce from the local community, so from the local farmers and local stores and merchants in our area and hopefully at a discount to support our entire community for this project. We would make it open to the public support the entire community at large by purchasing everything that we could possibly purchase for the supply of this to run this program that would go back into the school district or other educational programs for our kids. The first level that I would be looking for is a space to do this in. There is a space available on the third floor of the Masonic Temple Building in town on 17 Main Street in the village that is open space and I've spoken to the landlord and it's in dire need of restoration, so we would be looking to fund that project to restore that space in order to use it for this project. I know that the Community Block Development Program does fund restoration of historic buildings both public and private, so I thought that would be a great place to start. I realize that it's probably going to take more funding than just what's available with the grant, which we intend to do with public fundraising and corporate donations.

Supervisor Sweeton – Can you draft something in one or two pages? You have it, you want to give it to us that would be great and we will put it into the mix and see what shakes out.

Denice Davis – I was a little misinformed. I thought I was coming here to ask for money that you already have. I didn't realize it was for next years projects.

Supervisor Sweeton – It's great though, it sounds like a great idea.

Councilman DeBuck – Will the program fit into the Community Center?

Supervisor Sweeton – That's the first thing, I don't know; that's an idea.

Denice Davis – One of the things I've done I proposed to really test the waters on this and put a proposal into Rosemary Cooper at the library for the library café. I did a small focus group with some parents at the school and asked them if they would be willing to volunteer their services and at a small focus group of seven women five offered to volunteer, so I was quite impressed with the number of people that were willing to come forward for an education foundation in just a small focus group. I did put in a proposal to the library to consider this type of program as a little satellite division to see if this might work, so that is currently under review at the library.

Supervisor Sweeton – Leonard was suggesting at the Community Center; I don't know if that's a possibility.

Denice Davis – The problem with the Community Center is that it's a little outside of what's happening in the village and what I've said to other people that have questioned me on this is that we want to make it a really cool place where kids want to go, like a fun cool place for teens. When I was a teenager I wasn't going to the Community Center, so we want to address the kids that would not be going to the Community Center and get them into what we are looking at calling the Sky Bar because it's on the third floor. It's got windows going all around it; we could do a Wi-Fi internet café with various different programs that would attract the kids to a clean healthy environment.

Supervisor Sweeton – OK.

Denice Davis – Not to say I'm opposed to the Community Center, I'm not at all, but I would like to see it in an environment where the kids really would look forward to going and having fun and doing different things.

Supervisor Sweeton – OK, thank you. Any other public comment on projects for HUD? I would suggest we keep this meeting open until the first meeting in May to give the opportunity for others to submit.

**ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Supervisor Sweeton, seconded Councilman Gerstner, that the public hearing be held open until the May 12th Board meeting. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:35 p.m.
04-28-11 cp**

Marjorie Quackenbush, Town Clerk