

April 22, 2010

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 22, 2010 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 Leonard DeBuck
Councilman James Gerstner
Councilman Mickey Shuback - Absent

Town Attorney, John Hicks – Absent

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on April 14, 2010. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – This is the annual hearing to consider projects for funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program. It's HUD funding that we are part of the consortium that the County administers. In the past we have funded projects through us for Winslow Therapeutic Riding as well as the Warwick Valley Community Center and the Senior Center for the Town that's behind this building. Tonight it's a hearing to listen to solicitations from the public. For the press the eligible type activities for this type of funding are acquisition and disposition of real property, public works, public facilities or site improvements, code enforcement (housing and health codes), clearance, demolition and rehabilitation for public use or economic development, housing rehabilitation loan and grants, special projects for elderly and handicapped, provision of public services (shelters, clinics, senior nutrition etc.), payment of non-federal shares of other grant programs, relocation payments and assistance and planning, management and program administration. We do have a submission of three projects as well as a potential project for the Town itself. These are on file with the Town Clerk. The Warwick Valley Humane Society has asked for \$7,350.00 for improvements to the shelter. I'm assuming under Sustainable Warwick is asking for funding for helping to set up a community garden and the Warwick Community Center has asked for a total of \$50,000.00 for some building code safety enhancement issues, security issues and ceiling repairs at the Community Center in the Village of Warwick. Winslow has submitted a request for \$75,000.00 and I know they have a representative here, so maybe Ginny can explain what they're asking for. Oh here, a security system, indoor and outdoor rope course with wheelchair accessibility, a greenhouse for therapeutic gardening and additional paddocks, so those are the projects that have been submitted. The Town's project is in front of the Senior Center. The seniors have requested handicapped access directly in front of the door, so there are some curbing changes that would have to be made there. We had estimates on that project and I believe the numbers were in the six to eight thousand dollar range. For the public's information this is generally either income related and/or special needs categories, like a handicapped

or senior citizens funding projects. In the past, the Town as a whole has had trouble getting projects for itself because we don't meet the income requirements as a Town; we're too high. I will open it up now for public comment or input just state who you are and your project. Geoff, do you have anything you want to add to the community garden?

Geoff Howard – Member, Community 2000 and Sustainable Warwick – What we are looking to do is create a community garden in the area behind the Community Center the Doc Fry Community Center. We have a small site laid out and the idea is that it will be a pilot for eventual community gardens we hope through out the town. The library has expressed an interest for next year and other groups have expressed an interest. We are asking and I can give you copies should I do that?

Supervisor Sweeton – Yes, because I have your submittal, but I didn't get the numbers for some reason.

Geoff Howard – What we are asking for is \$4,250.00 primarily for fencing, water hookup, a small shed and tools and materials for raised beds. What we propose to do there is to create two separate models in the same space. Half of the space will be devoted to individual beds and individual members who pay a fee will be responsible for that bed. That is one model of a community garden. The other model or the other half of the area will be managed or developed by a group of a collective group who are members who pay a fee to be members who then share the work and the produce. That is the other definition of a community garden. One is one person one plot and the other is a group of ten people in a community plot. The reason why we are doing this is because we want to see when we get to the end of October which of these two models worked better. If they both worked well that's great and if one of them worked better that's a really good piece of information. We see this as a small manageable start and we have strong interests from people who are very familiar with the Community Center. They are very excited about incorporating this into their existing program. They are going to be working strongly with nutrition and cooking classes. This is located in the Village so this is largely for people who don't have access to big gardens in their backyard. The population that uses the center, I'm sure you're familiar with it, there is a lot of disadvantage with low income youth and children and we would see this as being a strong plus in that area. To me, the biggest plus is the fact that when we get to October I think we can have a model we can replicate and I personally would love to see and Sustainable Warwick's idea is that you will have community gardens in Florida, Pine Island, Greenwood Lake, the library and perhaps the parks. The only restriction will be can we get enough people together to do it, so this is small money to get us over that tipping point and maybe I should add that we already had some significant kind contributions in terms of preparing the land. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Supervisor Sweeton – I think we got the gist of it. Ginny do you have anything to add to your submission?

Virginia Mazza – Director of Grants, Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center, 328 Route 17A, Warwick, NY 10990 – I want to thank you all very much for being so supportive of

Winslow in present years. We put in quite a big chunk of money for last year and by the time it went through the legislature it was much smaller. One of the reasons we want a security system is because our bear was stolen. We were donated a carved bear that was about the size of me it stood out in front of the house that said welcome to the facility. It was not up by the road, so whoever did it they knew the bear was down there. We have fenced all of the property for the horses except the entrance, so if the horses breakthrough their paddocks they might get up that far, so that would be another reason for having one of those gates that opens electronically and we can close it and secure it at night. We are growing; we had 472 riders with 515 disabilities because some people have more than one disability and we had 5,655 rides last year. We are looking to expand into an outward bound and they even have ropes for wheelchairs, which I thought was interesting. The program is growing and it's wonderful and everybody should come on over and see us.

Supervisor Sweeton – Thank you. Anyone else for project suggestions for HUD? Any other questions from the Board?

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman DeAngelo, seconded Councilman Gerstner, that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (4 ayes, 0 nays & 1 absent – Councilman Shuback absent) 7:28 p.m.
04-22-10 cp**

Marjorie Quackenbush, Town Clerk