

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019**

PRESENT: Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Vice-Chairman and Mr. John Nason, Clerk

ABSENT: Mr. Marc W. Richard

ATTENDEES: See Attached List

Opened the Meeting at 7:15 PM

Vice-Chairman Nardi chaired this evening's meeting in Mr. Richard's absence and led with the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Ms. Colleen Montague is in attendance and acknowledged her taping of this evening's meeting.

Due to inclement weather last night, the Board has rescheduled tonight's public hearing for this evening.

FY 2019 CDBG Block Grant Application – Public Hearing

Christopher Dunphy is in attendance this evening. Mr. Dunphy began by stating the purpose of the CDBG program and outlining typical projects funded by its grants. Tonight's hearing, which is on the proposed application for FY 2019 for Warren was advertised in the Ware River News, posted on the town's bulletin board, on the town's web site, via local cable access and flyers.

Mr. Dunphy recognized the members of the town's Community Development Advisory Committee and explained their role in developing the proposed projects to be discussed tonight. He encouraged community members to contact the committee members and attend committee meetings.

Mr. Dunphy noted the Community Development Block Grant was authorized by Congress, and is funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has designated the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as the state's administering agency for CDBG funding. The primary objective is: *"...to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons."* DHCD will fund eligible projects designed to meet this objective. In Warren, the Community Development Advisory Committee continues to target most activities in Warren Center, West Warren, and vicinity.

For fiscal year 2019, Warren will be applying for approximately \$800,000 of CDBG funds as part of their single community grant application. Warren's FY 2019 grant proposes to make comprehensive improvements to Moore Avenue and Lombard Street. Dunphy explained the process for selecting this project started with a planning study funded through the FY 2011 CDBG. Weston & Sampson completed the study which determined all public works in the School Street neighborhood were in poor condition and upgrades are needed. A FY16 CDBG design project funded engineering design of Quaboag Street, Moore Avenue and Lombard Street. Quaboag Street was recently completed with FY 2017 CDBG funds and now it is time for the town to turn attention to Moore Avenue and Lombard Street. The anticipated timeline for the prospective project is the grant submission is due March 8, 2019, notification of the award sometime in July (if successful) with an anticipated groundbreaking in the spring of 2020.

New waterline infrastructure is also proposed in accordance with DEP's recommendations of 8" lines for both potable water and fire protection. It is noteworthy that there is no financial contribution being made from the Warren Water District, however in exchange, the Superintendent will be on site performing inspections.

Moore Avenue and Lombard Street improvements would cost approximately \$865,000 including resident engineering/clerk related services and delivery assistance from the PVPC. Therefore, Mr. Dunphy stated that a town contribution of \$150,000 would be needed to complete the project as designed by Weston & Sampson Engineers.

And an additional \$85,000 in the grant application would be for administration.

Mr. Nardi asked for any additional comments or questions from those in attendance. There were none. The following motion was presented.

Proposed Motion: *The town approves the submission of the proposed FY 2019 Warren grant application and their respective activities to the DHCD, and furthermore authorizes the CEO to sign required forms when prepared. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will assist the town with the overall management of the grant if funded. The town of Warren is also committed to the proposed match in the amount of \$150,000 as needed to see this project completed.*

Motion was made that the Town approves the submission of the proposed FY 2019 Warren grant application and their respective activities to the DHCD, and furthermore authorizes the CEO to sign required forms when prepared. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will assist the town with the overall management of the grant if funded. The town of Warren is also committed to the proposed match in the amount of \$150,000 as needed to see this project completed made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Motion to close the Public Hearing on the FY 2019 Block Grant Application made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 7:45 PM.

Program Amendment – Unused FY 2017 Funds

Mr. Dunphy also advised the Board that there is approximately \$90K to \$100K of unused FY 2017 funds. He suggested that the town consider applying for a contract amendment to add engineering and design plans for Prospect and School Streets. An income qualification survey would need to be conducted, to which the Board was in full agreement.

In closing, with regard to the FY 2018 grant, there are funds available for housing rehab and social service programs and highly encouraged residents to contact him for additional information to utilize this program.

The Select board thanked Mr. Dunphy for his continuing efforts for the Town and with this year's application.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk

