

TOWN OF BETHEL
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MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Bethel will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room A, located at 1 School Street, Bethel, CT to discuss its 2016 Small Cities Program Application and to solicit citizen input.

Maximum award limits are \$700,000 for Public Facilities, \$700,000 for Public Housing Modernization of 25 units or less, or \$800,000 for 26 units and over; \$500,000 for Infrastructure; \$400,000 for Housing Rehabilitation Program for single towns, \$500,000 for two-town consortium, and \$600,000 for three or more Towns; \$25,000 for Planning Only Grants; \$500,000 for Economic Development Activities, and \$500,000 for Urgent Need.

Major activity categories are: Acquisition, Housing Rehabilitation, Public Housing Modernization, Community Facilities, Public Services, and Economic Development. Projects funded with CDBG allocations must meet at least one of three National Objectives: 1) benefit to low and moderate income persons, 2) elimination of slums and blight, or 3) meeting urgent community development needs. Only one (1) project Application may be submitted to DOH.

The Town is proposing to submit an Application under the Public Housing Modernization category for Renovations and Improvements at Reynolds Ridge Senior Housing Phase II. The Town of Bethel anticipates applying for up to the maximum grant amount of \$800,000.

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizens’ views on the Town’s community development and housing needs and review and discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities which could be a part of the Town’s Application for funding. The hearing will also review and discuss the Town’s prior Small Cities projects including any currently open or underway.

The public hearing will give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known on the program and review and discussion of the Program Income Reuse Plan. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may direct written comments to the Town of Bethel, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801 or you may telephone Ms. Phyllis D. Kansky, Human Resource Manager at 203-794-8148. In addition, information may be obtained at the above address between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm weekdays.

The Town of Bethel promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income families, and will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, or gender identity or expression.

“All are encouraged to attend. The hearing is accessible to the handicapped. Any disabled persons requiring special assistance or non-English speaking persons should contact Gary Boughton, ADA Coordinator at 203-794-8517 at least five days prior to the hearing.” The Town of Bethel is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

First Selectman Knickerbocker opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. Also in attendance were Town Counsel Martin Lawlor and Selectman Richard Straiton. First Selectman Knickerbocker introduced Larry Wagner of L.

Wagner Associates, Gail Slifkin, Chairman of the Bethel Housing Authority and Mark Nolan, Manager of Reynolds Ridge.

Mr. Wagner provided an overview of this grant application which provides for up to \$800,000 for rehabilitation of the units at Reynolds Ridge. If this grant funding is approved, it would provide for a continuation to the various projects begun at Reynolds Ridge. This includes items such as renovating the kitchen and bathroom facilities of 25 units for handicapped accessibility and, to provide safe walkways and tree removal which impacts the accessibility into the units. He noted that the grant application is due in April and grant awards are announced late summer.

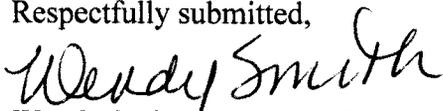
Jay Ofiero, President of the Tenant Association, stressed the need to continue with the handicapped accessible upgrades to the units and cited several concerns with the walkways to the units.

Mark Nolan, Manager at Reynolds Ridge advised that they are in the process of compiling letters from tenants expressing support of the continuation of the renovations as well as identifying their areas of concern, particularly the sidewalks.

Christine Slate, Vice President of the Tenant Association spoke to the need to make the common areas and clubhouse doors handicapped accessible.

As there were no further comments, First Selectman Knickerbocker closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary