

1 Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
March 15, 2010

Present: President, G. Wayne McIlroy, Trustees Michael Astafan, Rebecca Vary, Kathleen Latremore, and Linda Smith-Spencer.

Also: Village Attorney Mark Gebo

Guests: Chelsea Craddock, Carthage Republican Tribune and Watertown Daily Times reporter; Kathleen Phillips and Phyllis Hutchinson representing the WCTA senior and disabled shuttle bus service; and Four Participation in Government Students

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion by Rebecca Vary, and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2010 meeting as presented by the Clerk with the following correction: the Easter Sunrise Service at Turning Point Park will be on Sunday April 4th not April 5th. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

CORRESPONDENCE:

The request for a three way stop sign at the intersection of Thorpe Street and West Street was discussed and tabled until the Board receives further recommendations from the Village Police Chief. President McIlroy asked the Clerk to get further information from Chief Rockhill, besides his initial recommendation of having a traffic and engineering study done at that location.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been furnished the second Public Hearing on the Village of Carthage and West Carthage, small cities Community Block Development Grant Program was called to order at 7:10P.M. by President McIlroy.

President McIlroy summarized the CDBG Program discussed at the last hearing on February 15, 2010. The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) provides fund to municipalities that can be used in three categories: housing rehabilitation or homeownership; public facilities (infrastructure improvements or service related projects) and Economic Development (creation/retention of jobs or micro enterprise). The grants are awarded on an annual basis, except for Economic Development where applications can be submitted at any time. A single municipality can apply for \$400,000 - \$600,000 depending on the activity and up to \$750,000 for Economic Development projects. Municipalities can also submit joint applications for public infrastructure (water/sewer only) for up to \$900,000. Projects must: benefit low and moderate income families; prevent or eliminate slums or blight; or meet other urgent community development needs. To meet the first criteria, at least 51% of the persons benefiting must be low and moderate-income persons according to the HUD income limits. These limits adjust based on household size. This is the primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant Program. At least 70% of the grant funds must be allocated to activities that meet the primary objective of benefit to low and moderate-income persons.

President McIlroy also explained the state process for applying for these funds requires that it must be a unit of local government in New York in compliance with all HUD regulations. Two public hearings must also be held. The first hearing was to explain the program and gather citizen input on community development need. A second hearing being held today is to explain

the program and gather citizen comments on the proposed activity that will be undertaken using these funds. Mr. McIlroy pointed out that the Public Hearing notice indicates that written comments could be submitted to the Village Clerk.

Mr. McIlroy presented the Village proposal as follows:

The plan is to submit a joint application with the Village of West Carthage for \$400,000 that would be used to continue the Twin Villages scattered site housing rehabilitation program. Home owners will be eligible for grant assistance to cover the full cost of improvements needed to their homes up to \$25,000. Eligibility will be based on homes owned and occupied by low or moderate income families (households having income less than 80% of the median household income for Jefferson County adjusted for family size). Rental Property Owners will be eligible for Grants to cover 75% of the cost of eligible improvements in those apartments occupied or made available only to low or moderate income families. Zero-interest loans will also be available to cover the owner's share of eligible costs. The total of grant/loan cannot exceed \$25,000. Eligible Improvements include work necessary to eliminate code violations and complete other major structural and mechanical repairs. Grant Awards will be made in the order of highest need. A portion of the grant assistance will be repaid to the local program if the property is sold or if the current owner moves out of the house within 5 years after all improvements are completed. With regard to apartments a portion of the grant will be repaid if an apartment ceases to be occupied by a tenant that was income eligible at initial occupancy, or the rent exceeds what is allowed by regulations. Rental units must remain affordable to lower income households for five years after all improvements are completed. No displacement of persons will occur as a result of this program. No loss of real property taxes is anticipated. No new special assessment districts will be required.

President McIlroy then discussed the requirements of the plan to minimize displacement. The Small Cities program encourages communities to minimize displacement of persons benefiting from the program. Depending on the activity proposed, the village would not expect displacement to be a problem. For housing activities, homeowners should not encounter displacement unless the home to be renovated contains extensive lead based paint that would require the family to be out of the home while it is being removed.

Information was made available on the possibility of submitting a \$400,000 joint application with the Village of West Carthage to continue and expand the existing local scattered site housing rehabilitation program into the Village of West Carthage. The Village of Carthage program was started with a 2008 CDBG award and was expanded to include West Carthage when the twin villages were awarded a CDBG grant in 2009.

President McIlroy explained that assistance is available to groups representing low to moderate income persons who are seeking to develop proposals by contacting the NYS Office of Community Renewal at (518) 474-2057. Interested property owners should contact the Chamber of Commerce at 493-3590 if they are interested in receiving a grant to rehabilitate their homes. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing closed at 7:13 P.M.

Motions by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to apply jointly with the Village of West Carthage for the 2010 CDBG grant.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED:

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from the Environmental Protection Agency that indicated its intentions of designating a small portion of the Black River as a priority site for sediment clean up.

OLD BUSINESS:

Attorney Gebo informed the Board that he is waiting on Attorney Hasseler regarding the Library expansion plan. Further, Attorney Gebo said he has not received any further correspondence on the property located at 358 South James Street and called their attorney again in February. At that time Attorney King is still waiting on a response from the homeowner at 358 South James Street regarding the proposed sanitary and storm sewer agreements.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kathy Phillips of the WCTA senior and disabled shuttle bus informed the board that this needed and worthwhile program is barely surviving on its donations. The shuttle bus transports many citizens to their appointments throughout Jefferson and Lewis County. Mrs. Phillips stated that currently WCTA contract with the Village of Carthage is to receive \$5,000 a year and this is not enough money to keep this service available to the citizens of Carthage. President McIlroy then explained to Mrs. Phillips that this situation would be discussed and taken into consideration for the upcoming budget.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve payment to Hrabchak, Gebo and Langone in the amount of \$180.00 for professional services, rendered on six residential units that qualified for the 2008 Community Block Development Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve payment to Avalon Associates Inc. for general administrative services from January 3, 2010 through January 30, 2010 in the amount of \$2,375.63 for the 2008 CDBG home preservation program. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve payment to Avalon Associates Inc. for program delivery services in the amount of \$1,800.00 for the 2008 CDBG home preservation program. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to authorize President McIlroy to sign the budget modification form on the 2008 CDBG home preservation program. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to authorize the clerk to transfer funds as needed to balance accounts within the budget of the Village. The list is on file in the official minute folder of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to adopt Resolution # 1 of 2010, unanimously as follows:

Whereas, The Village of Carthage has adopted the Bond Budget for 2009-2010, and

WHEREAS, the general ledger line items listed below be increased by a total amount of \$1,673,249.46, And

WHEREAS, the funding source be from Roosevelt and Crouse on March 4, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, on this 15th day of March 2010, by the Village Board of the Village of Carthage, County of Jefferson, State of New York that a Budget Amendment is hereby made to increase said General Ledger line items by \$1,673,249.46.

List of increase to General budget as amended are as follows:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	
A9730.6 Expense	\$836,624.73	Debt Principal Bond Anticipation Note
A5710 Revenue	\$703,000.00	Proceeds of Serial Bond
A5031 Revenue	\$133,624.73	Interfund Transfer (proceeds left from the original borrowing of \$900,000)

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to approve payment of payrolls as follows: General Fund P/R #A49, 50, 50A & 51 \$29,352.38; Water Fund, #F 49, 50 & 51 \$2,217.42; Sewer Fund, #G50, & 51 \$2,968.47; Joint Fund, #J20, \$8,321.96, and General Fund Abstracts, \$56,284.46; Water Fund Abstracts, \$20,775.24; Sewer Fund Abstracts, \$13,488.64; Joint Fund Abstracts, \$59,999.01. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY GEBO UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo stated the Brahman's property is still owned by the county and next month he would be able to update the Board further. Then Attorney Gebo said he received the purchase offer on the property located at 510 Cemetery Street and would need an executive session to discuss a collective bargaining issue.

PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

President McIlroy informed the board Wednesday March 17, 2010 at 4:15 p.m. will be the Joint Waste Water Treatment Facility meeting at the West Carthage Municipal building.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to enter into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issue. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular session resumed at 8:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Sherry L. Sears, Village Clerk