

Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees 1
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
March 21, 2011

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

Excused: Linda Smith-Spencer

Guests: Seven Participation in Government Student.

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

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve the request of Kate Gukeisen, teacher at the Black River Cooperative Preschool to wave the rental fee for use of the recreation building on Monday, June 13th for the pre-kindergarten graduation and end the year picnic. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathy Latremore and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to approve the request of Thomas Steiner, coach for the Carthage Little League to wave the rental fee for use of the recreation building on May 29, 2011 and the use of the ball fields on an as is basis for ball practice from April 1st through June 17, 2011. It is also noted that the Little League was previously approved by an email poll to the Trustees for using the Recreation building on March 14, 2011 for equipment sorting. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence was received from Village resident Jonathan Hirschey in regards to the penalty amount charged to his water/sewer account. The Village Board denied his request to have the penalty removed from his account because the payment was not received in the Village office by the due date of January 31, 2011. The Board stated that the Clerk/Treasurer should inform Mr. Hirschey that HSBC bank should be contacted in regards to reimbursement for this penalty. Mr. Hirschey issued a "bill pay" bank check on January 28th (before the penalty period), but this check was not received until February 4, 2011.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to approve the request of Brandy Hooley to hold her wedding ceremony at Turning Point Park on May 7, 2011 from 4 P.M. to 5 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

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 22, 2011. The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) provides funding 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 7:16 P.M.

Motions by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to proceed with the 2011 CDBG grant application process.

OLD BUSINESS:

Deputy President Michael Astafan displayed pictures of the “unstable garage” on West End Avenue as requested by the Board. Each Board Member and Attorney Gebo were in complete agreement that this is not a Village matter and does not pose a threat to public safety.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to hold a public hearing on April 18 at 7:10 P.M. for the request from Sister Annunciata Collins, Principal of the Carthage Augustine Academy to create a crosswalk from the West Street Road parking lot to the already established steps in front of the St. James Rectory. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to hire Richard Duvall as a Part-time Police Officer at an hourly rate of \$18.00 an hour, as recommended by the Police Chief, Reeve Rockhill. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore 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.

The Treasurer’s report was presented and noted that the cash balance of the General fund is \$531,617.90 with Reserves of \$140,792.03. Water Fund cash balance is \$19,666.44 with Reserves of \$26,699.82 and the Sewer Fund cash balance is \$34,468.28 with Reserves of \$20,392.95. At this time, no questions were asked about the submitted reports.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve the payment of payrolls as follows: General Fund P/R #A51, & 52 \$20,571.60; Water Fund, #F 51,& 52 \$3,483.63; Sewer Fund, #G51, & 52 \$3,502.73; Joint Fund, #J21B, 50 & 50A \$10,178.34 and General Fund Abstracts, \$151,315.40; Water Fund Abstracts, \$4,018.26; Sewer Fund Abstracts, \$2,913.44; Joint Fund Abstracts, \$91,860.97. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve payment to Painting Etc. Inc. in the amount of \$8,910.00 for rehabilitation services that qualified for the 2009 Community Block Development Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY GEBO UPDATE:

President McIlroy agreed with Attorney Gebo that the Consolidated Health Board budget is already in place for this current year and the salary of the Health Officer would not be re-negotiated till after this current budget year. Attorney Gebo stated he has already filed the declaration of impasse, in regards to the Teamsters/Department of Public Works negotiations and Attorney Gebo is waiting to be contacted from the mediator.

PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

President McIlroy stated that due to the Main Street Grant program new street lights will be installed in the downtown section of the Village. On Tuesday, March 22 and Thursday, March 24 will be budget session workshops to discuss and review the upcoming budget. Then on Monday, March 28 at 4:00 P.M. will be EDCC meeting and Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 4:00 will be the next CIDC meeting at the Carthage Board Room. The Waste Water Pollution Control Facility special meeting will be Wednesday March 30, 2011 at 4:15 P.M. at the West Carthage Municipal Building.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Deputy President Michael Astafan stated that the two new signs located on Thorpe Street/West Street Road, are highly visible to the area and should help with traffic problems on those streets. Trustee Kathleen Latremore stated the last RACOG Recreation Committee meeting was cancelled and has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 23 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town of Wilna offices.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to enter Executive Session at 7:32 P.M. for a personnel matter.

Regular session resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to set a public hearing on Monday April 18, 2011 followed by the proposed Crosswalk public hearing to expand the residency requirements for the Clerk/Treasurer position to include residents in the County of Lewis.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 8:02 P.M.

Sherry L. Sears Village Clerk/Treasurer