

A regular meeting of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, March 26, 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Dan Knorr; Council Members Diane Levan, Sylvia Costa, W. Carey Howell, Bill Kreisher, Fred Trump and Eric Bower; Superintendent of Public Works John Barton; Chief of Police Leo Sokoloski and Office Assistant Amy Seamans. Absent were Code Enforcement Officer Ed Fegley; Recycling Administrator Charles Fritz; Fire Chief Bob Rupp and Solicitor Jack Mihalik.

VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Mayor Knorr, Bloomsburg Town Park Improvement Association (BTPIA) President Chuck Wagner and Veterans Memorial Committee co-chairs Kate Levan and Jean Coffman announced that they plan to form a joint committee to get a Veterans Memorial project moving again.

Mayor Knorr stated they started meeting a year ago and despite past concerns and frustrations, they all feel this is worth giving another try. The committee will have two members each from Town Council, BTPIA and the Veterans Memorial Committee. The group will work on a design and ways to fundraise. K. Levan expressed the group will meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Legion. J. Coffman invited not just veterans but anyone with ideas to please attend the monthly meetings. C. Wagner noted that this memorial isn't just for veterans honoring veterans but it's for the community to honor veterans. Elements from Jay George's design will be used but otherwise the design will start as a blank slate. There is no time table set and D. Knorr noted that there will still be a lot of challenges ahead.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mayor Knorr reiterated that the Round 1 application deadline was December 30, 2011 and the Town acting as the applicant on behalf of the residents submitted 17 applications, 11 in the 900 block of West Main Street, 3 in the 600 block and 3 miscellaneous properties. At the February 27, 2012 Council meeting submission details were given and it was reported that PEMA was still reviewing the applications.

Mayor Knorr reported that PEMA is now saying only substantially damaged homes (equal or greater than 50% of their pre-flood market value) may qualify for Round 1 which has to be certified by a qualified local official which is Code Enforcement Officer Ed Fegley. The Town has obtained most of the necessary appraisals and substantial damage letters from residents.

Anticipated timeline – today through May 2012 PEMA/FEMA will continue to review applications. Formal announcements begin in May. August through November, 2012 PEMA will mail grant agreement to sub-grantee to be signed off and then PEMA Director, Comptroller, Office of General Counsel and Attorney General's Office sign off. A fiscal briefing will be scheduled and onsite checklist signed off by sub-grantee is conducted. September through November, 2012 funds to be available with PEMA's goal being all Round 1 funds distributed by the fall of 2012.

Mayor Knorr noted that Council will eventually need to decide on how to make up the 3% match. Some options are: using in-kind services, increased cost compliance, homeowner's contributing cash or use of CDBG funds.

John Long of the 900 block of West Main Street thanked the Mayor for the call concerning tonight's update but feels that the communication coming from Council is poor. He and his neighbors are frustrated. He expressed that E. Fegley comes down and tells his neighbors different stories. Some are being told that if their home is substantially damaged they must elevate and meet all codes and others are being told that they do not have to elevate. John stated he's living in his home and the hot water heater, furnace and electrically panel are in the basement. He and the neighbors have been talking to Congressman Barletta and Representative Millard's office and have better communication with them. Everyone needs to be all on the same page.

Ray Vought suggests a task force be formed or the Town should have someone available at least five days a week for these people to come and talk to.

Sharon Fisher of the 900 block has heard from FEMA representatives that the whole block would be bought out.

Mayor Knorr said that anyone with questions can contact himself or Ed Fegley and if they don't have the answer then they would contact the FEMA representative to get an answer. Another update will be given in April.

FFY 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECT FINALIZATION

Bill Lowthert of SEDA-Council of Governments reported that the Town's FFY 2012 CDBG Program allocation is \$161,204 which represents a 7.2% decrease from 2011. B. Lowthert reviewed the project evaluation criteria and the list of proposed projects that were identified at the February 27, 2012 Public Hearing:

1. Replacement of the Old Restroom Facilities at Town Park. The project is eligible and fundable under Town-wide LMI and has been approved by DCED. \$10,000 in FFY 2010 and \$100,000 in FFY 2011 CDBG funds plus a \$25,000 donation from the Town Park Improvement Association have been set aside. The project has been bid with total costs at \$180,811.55. There is a funding shortfall of \$48,811.55.
2. Recreation Developments at the Streater Property Recreation Area – Access Roads and Parking Improvements including storm water and grading of small soccer and football fields. The project is eligible and fundable under Town-wide LMI and has been approved by DCED. \$10,000 in FFY 2010 and \$42,389 in FFY 2011 CDBG funds plus a donation of \$15,000 for the construction of a football field have been set aside. The Town is applying for a DCNR grant for the football field and trail. The estimated cost for road, parking, storm water improvements and preliminary grading (not including the football field) is \$425,270.13. There is a funding shortfall of \$372,881.13
3. Construction of a Walking/Biking Trail along Fifth Street Hollow. The project is eligible and likely fundable under Town-wide LMI but would need to end at Giant Plaza. The existing right-of-way along Fifth Street is not likely sufficient so property acquisitions would be required.
4. Pedestrian Improvements in Town. The project is likely eligible although it would need to rise above a maintenance activity. Inground lighting system at Main and East Streets will likely need PennDOT approval. Marking of additional pedestrian crosswalks around town may be fundable under Town-wide LMI in the downtown district and on major pedestrian routes such as East and Market Streets. Additional consultation from DCED and PennDOT before moving project forward is suggested. Council could consider for FFY 2013 or PennDOT Safe Routes to School funding.
5. West Third Street Improvements from Market Street to Railroad Street. The project is eligible but fundability would need to be established through an income survey of only those residents. If found fundable, construction would not likely begin until spring of 2013 at the earliest due to availability of funds from DCED, Environmental Review, design and bidding process. B. Lowthert believes the Town is considering other funding options.
6. Sidewalk and Curbing Improvements Grants to Income Eligible Homeowners. The project is eligible and fundable based upon the income of the homeowner(s). The Town would need to be actively enforcing their ordinance with areas being identified based upon the on-going curb and sidewalk planning study.
7. Administration/Planning Activities – maximum of 18% or \$29,016. SEDA-COG Administrative and Management Agreement, \$25,060 and Community Development related Planning Studies, \$3,956.

B. Lowthert informed Council that they have the following additional funding available: \$17,078.96 in CDBG Program Income from a senior housing loan repayment; \$12,580.67 remaining in an old UDAG account from original loan repayment and \$657,106.96 in a Commercial Revolving Loan (CRL) Fund which has an outstanding balance of \$51,045.47.

As directed by Mayor Knorr, B. Lowthert explaining Option 1 of the three he presented to Council as possible funding options to consider:

Use additional funding sources and FFY 2012 CDBG Funds to keep both active projects moving forward, but don't begin any new CDBG projects this year:

Town Park Restroom Improvements – assign \$50,000 from additional sources to cover funding shortfall (CDBG Program Income, old UDAG funds, and CRL funds) and to provide an approximate \$4,000 contingency for change orders. These funds would be available almost immediately and could be used to pay project invoices as they are submitted.

Streater Recreation Complex Improvements – allocate \$132,188 in FFY 2012 CDBG funds to the project and assign \$250,000 from additional sources (CRL funds) to cover funding shortfall. The project could continue moving forward and the FFY 2012 CDBG funds would likely be available by the time construction begins. Construction would likely begin in Fall 2012 or Spring 2013.

Administration/Planning – Set aside the full 18% maximum of \$29,016.00.

B. Lowthert recommends Council select Option 1 as discussed above.

APPROVAL OF FFY 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECTS

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by C. Howell and voted on Six (6) (D. Levan, C. Howell, D. Knorr, S. Costa, B. Kreisher and E. Bower voting "Yes") to One (1) (F. Trump voting "No"), and on the recommendation of SEDA-COG, Council approves allocating \$132,188 in FFY 2012 CDBG funds to the Streater Recreation Complex and \$29,016 to Administration/Planning. The final FFY 2012 CDBG Public Hearing along with discussion of reallocating a total of \$300,000; \$17,078.96 from the CDBG Program Income account, \$12,580.67 from the old UDAG repayment account and \$270,340.37 from the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund will be scheduled for April 23, 2012.

Oren Helbok questioned what the hourly rate of SEDA-COG is. B. Lowthert explained that it's not set up on an hourly basis and there would be no way to tell. The Town has a five-year agreement with SEDA-COG and for FFY 2012 the amount is going to be \$25,060. B. Lowthert went on to list some of the numerous things SEDA-COG's staff do to administer the program for municipalities and Mayor Knorr believes the Town is getting a great deal.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-26-12.01 – NEW YOUTH FOOTBALL FIELD PROJECT DCNR GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION AUTHORIZATION

B. Lowthert explained that the grant application is for the construction of a youth football field at Streater Field including a 350' walkway that will lead from a proposed parking area to the field. The grant has a 50/50 match. Mayor Knorr asked if there was any public comment. Jeanine Waters would like to see bleachers next to the field so family and friends don't need to bring lawn chairs to sit on. B. Lowthert expressed that he didn't think bleachers were in the plan but that would be decided at a later date.

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by F. Trump and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 03-26-12.01 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the New Youth Football Field Project.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Knorr reported that there will be an Executive Session of Council held this Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. A Special meeting will follow to act on any business that may become before them.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by S. Costa, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the March 12, 2012 Council meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF A ZERO-TURN MOWER

On a motion by C. Howell, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved the purchase of a zero-turn mower in the amount of \$12,977.75 from TPC Power Supply.

APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 13, PART 5 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO ANTIQUE AND SECONDHAND GOODS DEALERS ORDINANCE

On a motion by F. Trump, seconded by D. Levan and voted on unanimously, Council approved advertising an amendment to Chapter 13, Part 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bloomsburg relating to antique and secondhand goods dealers.

APPROVAL OF HIRING TRACY KISHBAUGH AS PART-TIME PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

On a motion by D. Levan, seconded by F. Trump and voted on unanimously, Council approved hiring Tracy Kishbaugh as a part-time Parking Enforcement Officer at \$10.00/hour contingent upon a successful background check.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Amy B. Seamans, Office Assistant
RECORDING SECRETARY