

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011
7:30 P.M.

Members present: Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman
Steven P. Rose
Robert F. Brady, Jr.

Others present: Michael McCue, Town Administrator
Joseph Lalli, Town Counsel
Peter Sanborn, Community Opportunities Group, Inc.
Kathleen Kelleher, Community Opportunities Group, Inc.

Chairman Hegarty called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with all members present.

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, November 3, 2011 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MASSACHUSETTS CDBG PROGRAM GRANT
APPLICATION FOR FY '12**

Chairman Hegarty introduced Peter Sanborn and Kathleen Kelleher of Community Opportunities Group, Inc.

Mr. Sanborn explained that Community Opportunities Group, Inc. is a private company that the Town retained to submit a Massachusetts CDBG Program Grant application for FY '12 funding. The grant application is due by December 16, 2011. FY '12 funding comes from the Federal level (Department of Housing and Urban Development) and then is dispersed to communities across the State. This proposed grant would be funded through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and pertains to non-entitlement communities. It is a very competitive grant; the Town can apply for up to \$800,000 for a single activity and up to \$900,000 for multiple activities (CDF-1). The Department of Housing and Community Development has designated the Town of Avon as a Community Development Fund-1 community, based on a community wide need (CWN) scoring system.

Mr. Sanborn reported on the accomplishments of the FY '09 CDBG program which consisted of a Housing Rehabilitation Program for low and moderate income residents. 24 households were assisted in Avon. Avon is an unusual Town, being smaller than most Towns in the surrounding area, comprising 4.35 square miles with a population of 4,125.

All activities proposed for funding must address needs identified in a Community Development Strategy (CDS). The Community Development Strategy is developed as part of the application process. The Town has sought support and comments from the general public and proposes to seek grant funds to continue its Housing Rehabilitation Program. There is a waiting list of 18; the Housing Rehabilitation Program from FY '09 funding is now closed. The Town is seeking funds to make improvements/rehabilitation to the Avon Housing Authority Fellowship Circle senior development as a second possible activity.

The revised Community Development Strategy was discussed.

Residents and Board members from Avon Housing Authority Fellowship Circle were in attendance at the Public Hearing.

Mr. Sanborn was asked about a timeline for funding. He responded that submission of the FY '12 grant does not in any way guarantee funding. He hopes the Town will hear favorably around April of 2012.

Mr. Sanborn asked the audience if there were any questions.

Fellowship Circle residents commented on items they felt were safety issues such as poor lighting in the hallways and along the outer walkways; improvements to buildings and railings both inside and outside; hot water heaters that leak in entry hall closets causing sub-flooring to rot. Executive Director for the Housing Authority, Sherry Guilbault, was in attendance and stated that there is a Capital Plan at the Housing Authority. There are 32 common hallways with worn out treads, poor lighting which should be on sensors and not timers and leaks in water heaters closets have caused damage to tile and sub-flooring. There is approximately \$1 million dollars worth of improvements needed and the state would fund \$107,000 over a five (5) year period. Receiving funding from the CDBG grant would help with these safety issues for the senior housing development.

Mr. Sanborn discussed how Avon's Community Development Strategy responds to community needs and priorities and how the CDS is compatible with the State's Sustainable Development Principles. Items #2 (Advance Equity) and #6 (Expand Housing Opportunities) were discussed.

After further discussion, Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Town's revised FY '12 Community Development Strategy. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the Town's submission, on or before December 16, 2011, of the FY '12 Community Development Block Grant (MCDBG) to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in an amount not to exceed \$900,000. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Sanborn reiterated that community support is a factor in consideration of the funding grant.

The Board thanked Ms. Kelleher and Mr. Sanborn for their past and present efforts.

Chairman Hegarty urged residents to write letters in support of both proposed programs.

AWARD BIDS FOR ROCK SALT AND COARSE SAND

The following bids were received for rock salt:

Eastern Minerals, Inc.	\$48.39 per ton
American Rock Salt	\$52.25 per ton
International Salt	\$62.28 per ton

On the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Ed Sarni, Mr. Rose made a motion to award the salt bid to Eastern Minerals, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The following bids were received for washed, coarse sand:

Kingstown Corp.	\$20.23 per ton
T.L. Edwards, Inc.	\$15.38 per ton

On the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Ed Sarni, Mr. Rose made a motion to award the sand bid to T.L. Edwards, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT—AVON FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Mr. Rose made a motion to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Avon and the Avon Firefighters Relief Association for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and effective July 1, 2010, there will be an hourly pay scale increase of \$0.50. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Hegarty read a letter received from the Old Colony Planning Council informing area communities that OCPC is applying for up to \$400,000 in EPA funds for a regional community-wide Brownfields Assessment Program. This would provide up to \$200,000 each for petroleum-based contamination and contamination from other hazardous substances. The program would use consultants to investigate known and potential sites throughout the region. There is no cost to the Town; just a willingness to support the program. OCPC is asking for a letter of support from the Town of Avon.

Mr. Brady made a motion to send a letter to OCPC on behalf of the Town in support of OCPC's grant application for an EPA Brownfield Assessment grant. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. McCue discussed the Pond Street improvement project. Approval is needed from the Board to grant National Grid authorization to relocate the existing poles #2 through #30 on Pond Street from their current location within the sidewalk area to a new location at the backside of the new H.M.A. sidewalks. Mr. McCue explained the poles will remain and are on the Town of Avon's property and usually hearings are required for pole relocations in other circumstances.

Mr. Rose made a motion to authorize Mr. McCue to send a letter to National Grid granting permission to relocate the existing poles #2 through #30 to new locations. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meetings for the month of December were set as follows:

Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve vouchers for the payment of bills minus one issued to Paolini Corporation. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. McCue is pleased to announce that the new van for the Council of Aging will be here tomorrow. Thank you to BAT for their assistance.

Mr. McCue reported a meeting was held today regarding foreclosures/abandoned property to discuss strategy going forward. This is an ongoing attempt to notify public safety departments in the Town of the risks associated with abandoned property as a result of the "Dilapidated Buildings" by-law recently passed.

Mr. McCue stated he is applying for a Peer-to-Peer grant for the purpose of an economic development review of our downtown center. Avon has no Town Planner, so he is seeking assistance via the Peer-to-Peer program to engage one. Mr. McCue will be sending a letter of request to the Department of Housing and Community Development. He will update the Board when more information becomes available.

Mr. McCue informed the Board that the Town received a donation from Foster-Southeastern. They delivered three (3) pallets of stone to be used for future plantings in the spring.

Mr. McCue filled out a survey from the State of Mass. to express the Town's interest in allowing filming of motion pictures in our community. The Board agreed to appoint Mr. McCue as Avon's film representative.

Mr. Brady reported that he attended Thanksgiving dinner at the Council on Aging. There were 55 residents who attended. Thank you to the COA for such a wonderful event.

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss contract strategy with AFSCME. Mr. Brady seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Rose voted aye

Mr. Brady voted aye

Chairman Hegarty voted aye

The Board would not reconvene in Open Session.

On behalf of the Board, Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary

Exhibits:

Board of Selectmen's minutes of Thursday, November 3, 2011 (Regular Session)

Avon Firefighters Relief Association Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Letter received from OCPC regarding information in EPA funds

Handouts from Community Opportunities Group, Inc.—Community Development Strategy (CDS)