



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER PLANNING BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, March 13, 2007**
Meeting Time: **6:15 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Andolina, Tony McManus, Perry Plummer, Dennis Ciotti, , Kirk Schuman, Marcia Colbath, Ron Stock, Linda Merullo, Ronald Cole, Frank Torr

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Swartzendruber, Doug Steele

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce Woodruff, City Planner; Rick Jones, Community Development Coordinator and Jacqueline Freeman, Recording Secretary

Chairman Cole got the workshop started at 6:15 pm.

Rick Jones explained that the Planning Department recommendations were made and a copy was sent to each member. He said a lot of deserving agencies have applied but the funds are limited. The grant was being reduced by \$761.00, which meant that they had to re-calculate the public service CAP and drop that down by \$113.00. They had to drop the Administration portion down by \$51.00. He said that all these agencies are very deserving and they do a great job for the community and the low and moderate citizens of Dover.

Marcia Colbath asked if any projects had been taken off this list.

Rick Jones explained that the second request of the School Department was removed, based on some of the comments from the Board. It was the only one.

Ron Cole stated that the focus seems to be funding local projects. He started with the Administration, Rehab, Public Facilities and Economic Development portion and read down the list and asked the Board to stop him at any item.

Frank Torr had concerns with the Dover School Department ADA Requirement. He said this request should come from School Building Aid where there would be some State reimbursement of the cost. There is no State reimbursement when CDBG funds are used.

Rick Jones stated that the school request for \$16,500 was the one that was eligible for reimbursement. This \$70,000 is not and is not part of the construction project; this has already been done at the high school and not at Woodman Park.

Marcia Colbath said that her bone of contention is that the school will get the money because that is what we have left. Personally, she felt that they should not get any of the money.

Rick Jones answered that she can make that recommendation as there are many places to put the funds.



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER PLANNING BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, March 13, 2007**
Meeting Time: **6:15 pm**

Marcia Colbath said that she doesn't believe that the project is not worthwhile but this is not the place to be funded.

Frank Torr stated his thinking is similar but he is not sure he would go as far as taking the money out because the taxpayers are going to have to pay for it. Someone wasn't on the ball originally, because it should have been picked up and done properly. He said that he doesn't know how you give a wake-up call to whoever is in the position to take action but someone needs a wake-up call.

Perry Plummer stated they would have gotten 30% reimbursement but 70% still have had to come out of the taxpayer's pocket. Taking it out of CDBG eliminates it coming out of the taxpayer's pocket.

Frank Torr stated that formula will work this year but many times it is more competitive and there are not sufficient funds to go around. He still says that someone dropped the ball. He is concerned at what happened at Woodman Park School. It must have been a very loose contract. Someone wasn't on the ball. He said he doesn't know who had control of that but someone didn't do a good job.

Tony McManus stated that he agrees with Marcia and Frank and particularly with the point that Dennis Ciotti made last week. He does not see how they could complete the contract and not meet the ADA requirement. He said that the Board has approved funding for a school project in the past and they used the money for something entirely different. He said that he is reluctant to vote in favor of this but we are almost locked in and painted into a corner. Just on general principals, he will vote no on this. We need to make it clear that CDBG is not an appropriate source of funding for school projects, unless it directly relates to low income people and not used to fill in a hole in the budget that they have created.

Marcia Colbath felt that this is the high cost of taking the low bid. They then go looking for funding in other places. A bid is a bid and if it is made so loose that the low bidder can come back and get more money, it defeats the purpose of going out to bid in the first place. She finds it disturbing because in the case of the School Department, it happens a lot.

Donald Andolina said he shares the concerns. It is bad that the attitude shown by the School Board is looking at this funding, rather than going for the 30% reimbursement. He said to refer to this amount as not very much money, is an insult.

Perry Plummer said he would much rather see it funded now and taken care of than putting it on the backs of the taxpayers. It makes sense to fund it.



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER PLANNING BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, March 13, 2007**
Meeting Time: **6:15 pm**

Dennis Ciotti stated it was his understanding that when they looked at the cost overruns of Woodman Park School and tried to find ways to cut the overall cost, the Joint Building Committee decided to cut out the ADA requirements. He felt that was ironic and very poor planning. They cut it because they were told they would get it out of CDBG. It all boils down to what Perry Plummer said that the taxpayers will end up paying the \$70,000. This is \$70,000 from the federal government that the taxpayer doesn't have to pay. That is why we should approve it.

Frank Torr said he will vote for it but he is not very happy. He asked if it would be appropriate for the Chairman to write a letter to the School Board or School Department indicating the Board's displeasure with what has happened and that it shouldn't happen again.

Bruce Woodruff stated that a copy of the minutes would be sent to the School Board.

Kirt Schuman shares the same sentiments as everyone else but will be voting for the money. He said that they are lucky that there are not a bunch of other deserving recipients on the list. It is a bad situation to put the Board in.

Perry Plummer said that he is not sure that it was a mistake or a strategy of spreading the cost out. If we don't want the School Department to do that again, we should share that with them.

Chairman Cole went down the list of Public Service Agencies and asked the Board to speak out at any time.

Tony McManus asked why Welfare Security Deposits are not within the category of Administration, Public Facilities and Economic Development, rather than Social Service Agencies.

Rick Jones explained that security deposits are allowed under the Public Service grant category. Administration, Housing Rehab and Economic Development are all separate categories. All of the activities for the top section of the list fall under Public Service, based on what they are looking to do with the money. Any time it is for bricks and mortar, it goes to the bottom of the list. Any time it is administration of their program, it is a Public Service.

Linda Merullo stated that she would like to give AIDs Response less money and give Seymour Osman the entire amount they request. By funding Seymour Osman Community Center, they are funding 100% Dover students. By getting those students on the right path, they will not have to use other services down the road. She felt that there is a lot of information out there on AIDS and she would rather have it go to another worth while project where it is all local. By funding Seymour Osman we are funding 100% Dover residents.



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER PLANNING BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, March 13, 2007**
Meeting Time: **6:15 pm**

Perry Plummer felt that recommendation make sense.

Marcia Colbath also agreed with the recommendation.

Rick Jones explained that AIDS is rated as high priority. The City has a Consolidated Plan, which is a 5-year plan, for Community Development needs. We are in the third year of the plan. Our loan pool is small so we fund our high priorities first and if there is money left, we then fund the lower activities. Rick explained that there has been a million dollar budget cut from the federal government for AIDS and NH is being affected. If AIDS doesn't make that money back up, they will be cutting meds and housing, which will be eligible under the City. The Welfare Department will have to pick up the difference. If you choose to reduce it by \$1,375, that's your prerogative. The \$1,375 will fully fund the Seymore Osman Community Center.

Perry Plummer stated if AIDS is cut, the City would be on the hook anyway.

Rick Jones answered that there is a chance.

Perry Plummer stated that knowing that, he will vote to leave it as is.

Chairman Cole went down the rest of the list of agencies with the recommendations.

Frank Torr asked what the rationale is for not funding the Dover Children's Center, Sexual Assault and the Homemakers Health Services.

Rick Jones explained that after reviewing the funds that we have put into the McConnell Center, plus the additional \$35,000, they felt that was enough based on the fact of the \$164,000 request and there is only \$81,000 available. It's not like we are not funding them, as they are being funded \$35,000 on the bottom of the list. Sexual Assault and Homemakers were strictly driven by the medium priority activities status. If they had the funds they would have funded them but unfortunately, they didn't.

Ron Cole asked if the Board wants to move \$1,375 from AIDS to Seymour Osman Community Center. He asked the Board's feelings on that. He asked for a show of hands. The hand showed 6 for and 2 against with Perry Plummer and Dennis Ciotti being against.

Perry Plummer stated that Rick Jones does a great job with this year in and year out and should be commended.

Ron Cole stated that the official vote will be taken at the regular meeting.



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER PLANNING BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, March 13, 2007**
Meeting Time: **6:15 pm**

Ron Cole stated that when we get to the regular meeting we will move the CDBG to the top of the agenda while everything is fresh in their minds.

Chairman Cole closed the workshop for CDBG and called a 5 minute break.