

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS BOARD ROOM
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees: Baldino, Canty, LaBedz, Padovani, Rosenberg, Schwingbeck and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Scaletta

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager; Charles Perkins, Director of Planning and Community Development; Nora Boyer, Housing Planner and Kim Peterson, Recording Secretary

SUBJECTS:

- A. Public Hearing – 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan including the 2020 Annual Action Plan and CDBG Budget
 - B. Community Development Block Grant – COVID-19 (CDBG-CV) Funding
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Other Business

Adjournment

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A. Public Hearing – 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan including the 2020 Annual Action Plan and CDBG Budget

President Hayes began by thanking everyone for participating in tonight's meeting and asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Trustee Schwingbeck moved, seconded by Trustee Rosenberg, to open the public hearing.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: Schwingbeck, Rosenberg, Canty, Baldino, LaBedz, Padovani, Tinaglia, Hayes

Nays: None

Mr. Perkins explained how tonight's meeting will include the annual Public Hearing for the Annual Action Plan and the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. The 5-Year

Consolidated Plan talks about the Village's needs assessment and market analysis and strategic plan for addressing the community's housing needs for low and moderate income families over the next five years. The Annual Action plan will include the proposed budget for the next federal fiscal year, which begins October 1st. The proposed budget includes funds in the amount of \$360,000 to be used to fulfill requests from various agencies for their worthy causes. The amount of these requests totals over \$520,000. Once the Village decides which agencies they will fund and in what amounts, the public will then have 30 days to comment, with the second public hearing occurring on July 20th. The Board will then vote to approve the Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plan, as well as the Village's budget for the CDBG funds. There is typically a 15% cap on Public Service Activities, however, this year the cap has been waived due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which Staff will discuss their recommendations later in the meeting. There are minimum requirements to spend a minimum amount of money on bricks and mortar projects on lower income developments and projects.

President Hayes asked the Board for any questions before the agency's started their presentations, which they were none.

Chuck Warner of Faith Community Homes stated that his organization is asking for \$3,000 grant to help support case management. Faith Community Homes works with low-income families to provide rental support, mentoring and case management for up to two years, with the goal of moving these families towards financial security and independence. 85% of the families they have worked with are able to pay their bills, plan their own expenses and solve their own problems. With the current pandemic, Faith Community Homes has decided to take some families for a shorter amount of time, who have fallen behind and need temporary help.

President Hayes asked Mr. Perkins and Ms. Boyer if the agencies should address the pandemic and how it has affected their agency now, or wait until the second item on the agenda is discussed. Mr. Perkins stated the agencies can comment on this item at this time if they would like.

Karen Oswald of District 214 Education Foundation is the supervisor of the adult education and family literacy program in the Community Education Department and is requesting \$1,500 on behalf of District 214 Education Foundation. These funds would be used for English as a second language classes primarily for Arlington Heights residents who are low-income. The program is held at the Arlington Heights Library has already served 34 residents this year. Ms. Oswald stated that once everything shut down during the pandemic, their classes went virtual, which has been successful thus far.

Jim Huenink, Executive Director of the Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault, stated that his organization is a comprehensive sexual assault center that serves all of North and Northwest Suburban Cook County with counseling services, medical advocacy services, criminal justice advocacy, crisis intervention and also provides preventive education in the schools. The stay-at-home order has changed their delivery of services, as most of the services now are being delivered via telephone.

Mr. Huenink is requesting \$3,500 for the salary and benefits of counselors and advocates who provide free services to sexual assault victims. Over 40 Arlington Heights residents were served last year.

Mark Parr, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), is requesting \$3,500 to support a bilingual advocate and therapist, as almost half of their Arlington Heights clients either speak Spanish or their families speak Spanish. These funds also help the organization, as some of the grants they receive require local match dollars. The CAC works with children and families who have experienced sexual abuse and/or physical abuse, or who have been exposed to violence in their homes. With the pandemic and children not attending school, the number of clients has gone down, as the mandated reporters in these schools have not been available to identify abuse. So far this year, 53 children and adults have received services through the CAC. Mr. Parr advised that his agency is looking to purchase plexiglass screens to aid in keeping everyone safe during interviews and indicated if there are additional funds available, they would be interested.

Luticia Fiorita, Government Relations Manager of WINGS, stated that her agency is currently serving 18 Arlington Heights residents, three in the Safe House and the other 15 through their community based services. WINGS provides housing, services, education and advocacy to end domestic violence. Ms. Fiorita advised that WINGS is requesting \$10,000 to continue their efforts. WINGS has been financially affected by the pandemic, as their resale shops had to close. All counseling and intake is currently all virtual.

Frederick Stupen, Executive Director of Resources for Community Living stated that his organization provides support services to individuals with disabilities in the Northwest Suburbs, including transportation to medical appointments, assisting with grocery shopping and budgeting. Services are provided at no charge, which is what they are requesting funding for. Mr. Stupen explained how much of the organization's fundraising occurs during the Spring, which is right when the pandemic hit, thereby causing a major financial loss.

Anne Wall of Escorted Transportation Services (ETS) stated that her agency provides rides for seniors to their medical appointments. Volunteer drivers use their own cars and stay with the senior during their appointment. ETS recruited a record number of volunteers last year, however, with the pandemic, they had to completely shut down their services, except for those going for dialysis. With this shut down, ETS asked their drivers to send cards and call riders to assist with the mental hardship of the shutdown.

Kimberly Mertz, COO of Suburban Primary Health Care Partners, explained the Access to Care program, which provides primary healthcare services to low-income uninsured and underinsured residents of suburban Cook County. Ms. Mertz stated that she is requesting \$4,400 to provide these direct services to approximately 16 Arlington Heights residents. Last year, approximately 90 residents from Arlington Heights received services. The demand for these services has increased with the current pandemic.

Beth Nabors, Executive Director of Journeys the Road Home, is requesting \$5,000 for her agency to continue their services to the homeless population, which includes their sheltering programs, housing programs and Hope Center programs. During the COVID pandemic they have been able to continue their services, although they had to shift the role of their staff, volunteers and the location of their clients. Currently there are 100 clients staying in two hotels in Arlington Heights and Journeys the Road Home has delivered over 300 meals a day to these locations. 92 residents from Arlington Heights were served last year, with 42 of these residents receiving services with last year's CDBG funds.

President Hayes asked how much longer the clients will be able to stay in the hotels, which Ms. Nabors indicated her agency just received \$40,000 from Elk Grove Township and she believes this funding will allow the clients to remain in the hotels through mid-July.

Katie Waszak of the Arlington Heights Park District CAP Program stated the before and after school program is offered in 10 elementary schools in Arlington Heights School District 25, 21 and 59. The program has been in place for over 30 years and is a joint effort between the Park District, School Districts and the Village of Arlington Heights. Last year, 1,180 children were enrolled in the program and for families in financial need, the Village provides funds for a scholarship program, which helped 17 children last year.

Amy Fox, Deputy Executive Director of Life Span stated her agency is a comprehensive domestic and sexual violence agency that provide three core integrated services, including counseling, legal services and criminal court advocacy. Life Span typically serves 50 Arlington Heights residents per year. Life Span has been able to continue their services since the pandemic began by utilizing their telephone system, however clients have not been able to reach out like they normally would because of the stay at home order. The pandemic has also put a financial strain on their clients.

President Hayes asked if their legal services are provided pro bono or if there are attorneys on staff, which Ms. Fox stated they have attorneys on staff.

Tess Kefle, Program Director of North/Northwest Shelter Program of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, explained how this program assists homeless families with housing and employment so they can become self-sufficient. There are currently eight Arlington Heights families receiving services and the length of services will last from 9 months to one year. Mr. Kofle stated his agency is requesting \$5,000 to fund staff to provide these services.

Julie Frankino, Grants Manager of Little City Foundation advised that her agency is requesting \$14,000 to support their adult day services program. 21 Arlington Heights residents are being served in this program, and overall, 41 Arlington Heights are being served by Little City. Little City provides a wide range of services

to adults and children with developmental disabilities. The adult day program allows participants to engage in life skills training, pre-employment training and community outings, among other things. The in-person services in the adult day program are currently suspended due to COVID-19, however Staff is still in contact with the clients via phone calls and Zoom calls.

Sonia Ivanov, Executive Director of Northwest Compass, Inc. explained how her agency offers housing and counseling services to those who are chronically homeless. Northwest Compass has three apartments in Arlington Heights and last year they assisted 398 Arlington Heights residents. Ms. Ivanov stated that Northwest Compass has not received funding from the Village of Arlington Heights the past few years, yet they continue to serve Arlington Heights residents. These funds would also help them obtain matching grant funds.

Don Frick, Vice President-Operations of Clearbrook is requesting funding to completely renovate the two bathrooms in their residential home on Dwyer, to make them more accessible and ADA compliant. In regards to COVID-19, Clearbrook has been hit hard financially, especially with all of the PPE purchases they had to make to protect their staff and clients.

Ms. Boyer summarized the Village's requests, including the Single Family Rehab Loan program, which allows 0% interest loans to low and moderate income home owners to make basic home repairs. This loan request is for \$75,000. The next loan request is for \$50,000 for the Group Home and Transitional Housing Rehab program, which would be used for renovations to the group homes and transitional housing to make them more accessible. The next request is for \$150,000 for Public Infrastructure, which would be used for street resurfacing in the designated HUD low and moderate income areas. There is also a request for \$50,000 for Public Facility improvements and \$65,000 for the administrative support of the CDBG program.

Mr. Perkins advised the next step is to field any public comments on the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. Staff will then present their recommendation for the budget to be advertised in the Annual Action Plan.

President Hayes asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to make a public comment on the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan.

Keith Moens, Arlington Heights resident, asked for an explanation of the 30-day public comment period and the amended Citizen Participation Plan. Mr. Moens also asked about the interested person's mailing list and how you can sign up for that. Lastly, Mr. Moens asked if the Board has considered allowing for remote access to the Village meetings, once in-person meetings resume.

Mr. Recklaus indicated the Village will continue to host virtual meetings until the end of June, however they have not decided yet how they will enter into the next phase when it comes to Village meetings.

Ms. Boyer advised that after the updates are made to the Consolidated Plan following tonight's meeting, the draft version will be available on the Village's website for a 30-day public comment period. Public comments can be directed to Ms. Boyer either via phone or email. These comments will then be sent to the Village Board prior to the second public hearing that is scheduled for July 20th. In addition, changes to the Citizen Participation Plan were made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Perkins presented the staff recommendations to be included in the Annual Action Plan for the 2020 fiscal year budget, explaining how normally the public service activity cap is limited to \$44,000 - \$45,000 that the Village can allocate to these agencies, although because of the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD has waived this cap. Staff has proposed funding all of the existing non-profits that they funded this year at about the same amount, or close to what they were funded this year, but not necessarily what they requested and then fund the three new agencies in the amount of \$4,000 each. Staff has also proposed creating a new category for COVID-19 Public Service Activities in the amount of \$25,000 for existing agencies to request additional funding, as they did not know the cap would be waived and did not ask for additional monies. The total amount Staff is recommending for Public Service Activities is approximately \$81,000. In regards to brick and mortar projects, Staff is recommending \$25,000 to Clearbrook for their group home renovation, \$39,000 to the Single Family Rehab Loan program, \$150,000 to the Public Infrastructure Fund and \$65,000 for administrative services. These items will be included in the Annual Action Plan and will be posted for the 30-day comment period, with a second public hearing occurring on July 20th, whereby the public can comment again.

Trustee LaBedz asked about the requested funds for the Single Family Rehab program and why the amount is lower than what has been requested in the past. Mr. Perkins indicated that the level of interest has been less than in the past and Ms. Boyer advised there were not any requests for the funds last year and only two requests, totaling \$25,000, so far this year.

B. Community Development Block Grant – COVID-19 (CDBG-CV) Funding

Ms. Boyer explained how the Village will be receiving additional funds from the federal government due to the current pandemic and the Village's allocation is \$164,062. To utilize these funds, the Citizen Participation Plan needs to be amended and there needs to be a five-day public comment period, due to the emergency nature of these funds. Staff is proposing to use the funds for Public Service Activities, which have been broken down into three categories: \$110,000 of housing assistance (mortgage/rent); \$15,000 for counseling services (COVID related mental health issues); and \$39,000 for other Public Service Activities. Ms. Boyer received a call from the Health Department asking if some of these funds could be used to help local food pantries. The Village has until September 30, 2022 to spend these COVID-19 funds. The funds can also be used retroactively to the beginning of the pandemic. The Health Department will be in charge of

administering these funds.

Trustee Rosenberg moved, seconded by Trustee Canty, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to the Village Board for approval at that the June 15, 2020 Village Board meeting: 1) the proposed changes to the Village's Citizen Participation Plan; 2) the proposed substantial amendment to the 2019 Annual Action Plan that allocates the CDBG-CV funds for public services, and 3) an amendment to the 2020 Village of Arlington Heights budget to include \$164,062 in CDBG-CV revenue in Account 215-0000-41147-00 and CDBG-CV Public Services budgeted expenditures in account 215-4102-522.41-08.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: Rosenberg, Canty, Baldino, LaBedz, Padovani, Schwingbeck, Tinaglia, Hayes
Nays: None

Trustee Tinaglia moved, seconded by Trustee Baldino, to close the public hearing.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: Tinaglia, Baldino, Canty, LaBedz, Padovani, Schwingbeck, Tinaglia, Hayes
Nays: None

Other Business

Emily Korkofigas, Arlington Heights resident, discussed the petition she submitted to the Village Board on behalf of herself and other Arlington Heights residents, requesting visibility into police practices in Arlington Heights, as they believe visibility and accountability will build trust in the community. Ms. Korkofigas believes the Police Department is a great part of the community and she hopes that by creating greater transparency will help ensure trust.

President Hayes indicated he has not seen the petition yet, but has received a number of requests regarding transparency and asked Mr. Recklaus to comment on this issue. Mr. Recklaus stated that he understands the concerns of residents following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Mr. Recklaus also stated that he is very proud of the policies, training and behavior of the Arlington Heights Police Department and is working with Chief Pecora on a response to this petition, as well as other inquiries he has received.

Tom Lucart asked about the possibility of using some of the Police Department's funds to help fund some of the agencies who presented at tonight's meeting.

President Hayes indicated he has no intention on defunding our Police Department, as he does not think it is wise to defund the people who are tasked with keeping us safe on a daily basis.

Adjournment

Trustee Tinaglia moved, seconded by Trustee Padovani to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: Tinaglia, Padovani, Baldino, Canty, LaBedz, Rosenberg, Schwingbeck, Hayes

Nays: None