

Town Board Minutes October 24, 2001

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TOWN HALL

OCTOBER 24, 2001 7:30 P.M.

Present were Councilman Damian P. Wiktor, Councilman Stephen K. Tills, Councilman Karl J. Simmeth Jr., Councilman Dennis J. Mead, Supervisor Lisa M. Rood, and Town Attorney Michael F. Perley.

Absent: Highway Superintendent Wayne C. Kreitzbender.

A motion was made by Councilman Tills and seconded by Councilman Simmeth to grant the Boston Youth Soccer League permission to use the Lions Shelter on October 27, 2001 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the Junior and Senior Division yearly banquet.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Supervisor Rood noted that Community Development Block Grant applications are available annually. Projects that benefit the low income, handicapped or elderly are eligible for consideration. Erie County ranks high targeted groups and projects that will benefit more than one town. A Site Selection Committee also determines the best use of the HUD monies and the final ranking is a combination of ranking by both the County and the Committee.

At 7:35 p.m. a Public Hearing

was held for the purpose of

hearing public comments on the use

of Federal Community Development

Funds (CDBG)in the Town of Boston.

Supervisor Rood read the legal notice.

A motion was made by Councilman Wiktor
and seconded by Councilman Mead to
open the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Mary Ann Jehle, 9432 State Road:

We are interested in making the
Boston Historical Society handicapped
accessible. I feel bad when people
call and ask us if we are handicapped
accessible and I have to say, "no I am
sorry, we are not?". Also some people
in town who know it is not handicap
accessible will say, "well I can't
make those stairs?". We would like
the Historical Society to be there for
everybody.

Supervisor Rood: Do you get a lot of
inquiries from outside the area as
well as in the area for genealogy work?

Mary Ann Jehle: We get a great deal of inquiries. In fact if you look at our books there are more people from all over the world than there are from town. I get at least two or three calls a week and sometimes people drop in.

Supervisor Rood: So you feel this would open up the entire building to having more access?

Mary Ann Jehle: Yes. People can actually come in and either see our exhibits or do their research in our facilities.

Councilman Wiktor: Have you received many inquiries from various levels of students whether they are high school or college levels?

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Public Hearing (Cont.):

Mary Ann Jehle: It runs in streaks. Sometimes we get inundated with them. It depends on the teachers. We have had a lot of positive feedback from parents on school projects.

Councilman Tills: Do you have any idea what the cost is to make the building handicap accessible?

Mary Ann Jehle: I don't remember the exact breakdown because the figures I saw for the things that need to be done to the building were a summary. You are all familiar with the building and you know that we can't just put a ramp up to the front. Everyone thinks the best solution is an elevator. It would have to be accessible from the rear of the building rather than the front. We used to have a sidewalk

until they put in sewers and they took our sidewalk away. So we would have to put in a new sidewalk and we would have to put in some kind of a lift for them inside the building.

Nancy Marron, Town of Boston Meals on Wheels Coordinator: When I heard about this Public Hearing I felt compelled to be here. I am on the front lines of Meals On Wheels so I feel I am qualified to give you an idea of what I think we need. I am sure that we are all aware that the elderly population is increasing. There is a need for services that we can provide to the community. One of the needs that we have is for a heated van to keep our meals at a certain temperature. Currently we are using a pick-up truck with a cap on it and the meals are placed in heated ovens and coolers and are delivered to different areas. They are delivered to Boston, Colden, Holland and Sardinia. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday, five days a week. We provide two meals a day, a hot meal and a cold meal. The hot meal needs to get there in a specified amount of time and it needs to be delivered at a certain temperature. It is fine during the summer but in the winter it is going to be a problem because the pick-up truck has to deliver from Bertrand Chaffee Hospital to all these areas and then finally make it here. When it comes here we have to put the containers in our vehicles and deliver them to various places. Up hills and far away and we have to deliver fourteen meals. I think there is a great need to have some sort of vehicle. The vehicles that they have now have plugs in them and we can plug our heaters in and keep the heated containers at 140 degrees. If we could maintain those temperatures when they arrive here that would give us more time to be able to deliver at a good temperature. We have conducted surveys and the responses were wonderful. Ninety-eight percent positive for the taste of the meals, quality and quantity of the food and also for the friendliness of the volunteers. All I can say is that I think this is a wonderful program and I think the need is there. Our elderly population is increasing and as you all know with the cut backs in health care and lengths of stays in hospitals being decreased there are people out there that are in great need of this service. These people have offered us a lot of their services from things that they have done in their life and now it is time for us to give them something. Something as small as a warm meal is not asking for much.

Councilman Tills: What did you say is the need at this point? To keep the meals warm?

Nancy Marron: A heated vehicle that has plugs for our heaters. They are plugged in at the hospital and brought up to a certain temperature and then are put in a vehicle and we have covers for these heaters but we have to try and maintain a certain temperature. To do that there are vehicles that are capable of doing this because they have plugs for heaters to keep the food hot and we have coolers to keep the other food cold.

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Public Hearing (Cont.):

Councilman Wiktor: This requisite for keeping the food at a constant temperature, 140 degrees, is that a County Health Department requisite?

Nancy Marron: Yes it is. The meals have to be maintained at a certain temperature and the meals have to be delivered in a specified amount of time.

Councilman Mead: How many other towns will this help?

Nancy Marron: It involves many. Colden, Boston, Holland, Sardinia. That is about fifty or sixty people maybe more.

Town Attorney Perley: Have you asked any other towns to consider putting this van on their Community Block Grant resolutions?

Nancy: Yes.

Town Attorney Perley: So it would be a regional application?

Supervisor Rood: Right. That is why I said earlier that you would get additional points for a regional project.

Councilman Mead: The same as Rural Transit Service?

Supervisor Rood: Right.

Town Attorney Perley: How much is this van?

Supervisor Rood: We are trying to get a price on it but we are ball parking it at \$40,000. If we could get a 5% match we would get an additional point and each of the towns currently kicks in \$500 toward the Meals On Wheels each year. That would cover our \$2,000 match.

Rachael Shagott, 6352 Patchin Road and owner of Captured Spirits:

I saw this meeting notice and at first glance I saw community projects and my husband and I have some interesting concepts or ideas for the Town and when I looked at it a little closer I realized it was for low income and those type of projects. Can someone outline exactly what we are talking about in terms of how much community funds are available and what you currently have on the table that you are looking at besides what we are bringing up.

Supervisor Rood: You can apply for up to \$90,000 and it has to be something that will benefit the low income, elderly or the handicapped and it is ranked among other projects that have been applied for throughout the other towns in Erie County. It is HUD money so you have to stick to the requirements that they put forward. At this point we are considering, and this is why we are having the Public Hearing, the Historical Society handicap accessibility situation and also for Meals on Wheels to have a van with plugs so ovens can maintain a constant 140 degree temperature throughout their entire route. The other thing that is on the table and is a constant is the Rural Transit Van Service.

Councilman Tills: This is not money that the Town has. It is funds that actually comes from HUD which is Federal Housing and Urban Development Agency, that delivers it to the county and then the county distributes it through grant applications.

Rachel Shagott: Our business is going out of business so probably this weekend we will be done and over with. We have this great building that we bought and are going to hang on to. We think it was a good investment but one of the problems that we have in order to hang on to it and pay the mortgage and costs associated with it, is that we are trying to get somebody to rent the store

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Rachel Shagott (cont.): front and the back could make a good apartment. We don't have the money anymore. We sunk all the money into the business to try to make it thrive. It didn't so we depleted all of our personal savings and don't have money to put into any kind of an apartment. We could make a low-income apartment if there was HUD money available or something.

Supervisor Rood: That would be another program. You could check with Tom Dearing at Environment and Planning. I am not sure but it would not fit with these guidelines. It has nothing to do with housing.

Councilman Wiktor: You may contact Southtowns Rural Preservation located in the old school near St. John's Church.

Supervisor Rood: The person to contact is Karen Diemunsch.

Rachel Shagott: We would be willing to rent the store front for a very reasonable rent to something like Meals on Wheels or something to do with community service. It will be available November 1st. If you know of anything spread the word.

Supervisor Rood: Belmont Housing is looking to open an office in the southtowns and said they couldn't afford much in rent.

A motion was made by Councilman Wiktor and seconded by Councilman Simmeth to close the Public Hearing at 7:51 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Supervisor Rood commented that the Rural Transit Service is a given. It is a wonderful program that helps the elderly, handicapped and low income have transportation for medical appointments etc. It benefits the rural areas and we are thankful that we have the drivers that are all volunteers that work with that program.

RESOLUTION 2001-36 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

REQUESTS FOR 2002-2003

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Councilman Tills to close adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

KAREN A. ELLIS,

BOSTON DEPUTY TOWN CLERK