

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 29, 2009**

A special meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on April 29, 2009. Present were Robert Butler, Mark Tourgee, Thaylen Waltonen, Susan Woloohojian and Kelly Stewart. Also present were Town Administrator Kevin Breene, Town Treasurer Colleen Derjue and Tax Assessor Charlene Randall. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Tourgee moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Woloohojian seconded. VOTED: Butler – aye, Tourgee – aye, Woloohojian – aye. (Stewart and Waltonen were not present for this vote.)

**CDBG FY 09**

**2ND PUBLIC HEARING  
PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES  
AUTHORIZATION OF APPLICATION FOR SUBMITTAL**

Butler opened the CDBG public hearing:

Mr. Jeffrey Gofton was present.

Tourgee moved to open the CDBG public hearing: Woloohojian seconded. VOTED: Butler – aye, Tourgee – aye, Woloohojian – aye. (Waltonen and Stewart were not present for this vote.)

The Council was provided with the following memos:

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 13, 2009  
TO: Jennifer Paquet, Town Planner  
FROM: Jeff Gofton, Community Development Consultant  
RE: FY'09 Community Development—Summary of Activities

The following is a summary of proposed Community Development activities to be included in the Town's FY'09 CDBG application. Kindly transmit this information to the Planning Board for their meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board will be asked to determine if said activities are not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and to prepare a priority recommendation for Town Council consideration.

I will be present at the Planning Board to provide an explanation and answer any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Blueberry Heights Utilities:** Funds in the amount of \$194,000 are requested to assist this previously funded housing development to move the location of its essential electrical services to property owned and/or controlled by the homeowners association.

**Housing Rehabilitation:** Funds in the amount of \$35,000 are requested to recapitalize and operate the highly successful housing rehabilitation program which constitutes one of the core CDBG activities.

**Washington County Community Development Corporation:** Funds in the amount of \$2,500 are requested to support the operation of this non-profit affordable housing development corporation established to assist communities in “South County” implement their affordable housing plans.

**Housing Information Program:** Funds in the amount of \$3,000 are requested to operate this Fair Housing information activity. The program is operated by Narragansett Affordable Housing and constitutes the Town’s fair housing obligation under CDBG requirements.

**Community Housing Land Trust:** Funds in the amount of \$3,000 are requested to provide continued operating support to the state-wide non-profit organization. CHLT offers to components to its program: Foreclosure prevention/mitigation and technical assistance to communities.

**Program Administration:** \$12,000

**TOTAL REQUESTED:       \$249,500**

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**

The FY’09 application handbook invites communities to submit proposals for funding made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or the so-called stimulus package. There are two activities that are proposed as follows.

**Blueberry Heights Generator:** Funds in the amount of \$50,000 are requested to purchase and install a generator at Blueberry Heights to assure continued electric service.

**Blueberry Heights Road Resurfacing:** Funds in the amount of \$89,000 are requested to support the cost of road resurfacing in the Blueberry Heights community which will be especially necessary after installation of the new electric service system.

Both the generator and road activities are “ready to go” that is engineering is complete and if funded construction could commence within three to four months.

April 21, 2009

To: The Honorable Town Council  
Robert Butler, President

From: Planning Board  
Jennifer Paquet, Town Planner

**Re: Community Development Block Grants 2009**

At their regular meeting on April 20, 2009, the Planning Board voted unanimously (4-0) on the following motion:

**Motion to** make a finding that the following proposed projects in the 2009 CDBG request are not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Community Plan and that the Planning Board recommends to the Town Council the following priority order:

1. Blueberry Heights Utility relocation
2. Housing Rehabilitation
3. Housing Information Program
4. Community Housing Land Trust
5. Washington County Community Development Corporation

Consultant for the Community Development Consortium, Jeff Gofton, will be present at your next meeting (7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2009), for the Public Hearing on the 2009 CDBG requests. I've attached the summary of this year's requested amounts and programs. Note that there are also two proposals under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act this year.

Mr. Gofton explained aspects of the various programs.

Tourgee moved to accept the priorities as set forth by the Planning Board. Woloohojian seconded. VOTED: Waltonen – aye, Butler – aye, Tourgee – aye, Woloohojian – aye, Stewart – aye.

Tourgee moved to adopt the following resolution. Waltonen seconded. VOTED: Waltonen – aye, Butler – aye, Tourgee – aye, Woloohojian – aye, Stewart – aye.

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, funds are available under the Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the Department of Administration, Division of Planning, Office of Housing and Community Development; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island has authorized the Director of said department to disburse such funds, and,

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the citizens of the Town of West Greenwich that application be made to undertake a local Community Development Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH:

That the filing of this application for the amount of \$249,500 to implement the activities proposed herein hereby authorized and that Kevin A. Breene, Town Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to file this application with the Community Development office, to provide any additional information or documents required by said office, to make any assurances required in connection with this program, to execute and agreement with the State of Rhode Island and to otherwise act as the Representative of the Town of West Greenwich in all matters relating to this application and any award which may be based upon this application.

Waltonen moved to close the public hearing. Tourgee seconded.

VOTED: Butler – aye, Tourgee – aye, Waltonen – aye, Woloohojian – aye, Stewart – aye.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2009/2010 BUDGET**

Butler reported that the Town Solicitor had advised that \$200,000 could be legally taken from the Open Space and Recreation Fund.

Butler reported on meeting with Police Union representatives and noted concessions on overtime and higher deductible on Blue Cross.

Town Administrator Breene suggested a meeting with the town's health care broker.

Town Administrator Breene reported on various aspects of the budget.

Waltonen reported that the Police had a counter-offer to extend the current contract.

Discussion was held on the ability of the Police to buy back sick time that was not afforded to the other municipal employees.

Discussion was held on whether or not to give the municipal employees raises.

Tourgee moved to adopt the budget as presented.

Woloohojian seconded.

Stewart stated that she was not in favor of using the reserve fund balance and not in favor of increase for town employees.

VOTED: Butler – aye, Tourgee – aye, Waltonen – nay, Woloohojian – aye, Stewart – nay.

Tourgee moved to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Waltonen seconded. VOTED: Butler – aye, Tourgee – aye, Waltonen – aye, Woloohojian – aye, Stewart – aye.

Janet E. Olsson, CMC  
Town Clerk