

Public Hearing of the Town of Poland Board March 29, 2016

Town Supervisor Snow called the Public Hearing to order at 6:35 p.m. with the pledge to the flag. In attendance were Town Council members Kathleen Stanton, Stevan Hatfield, Norman Gustafson and Terry Walker. Also present were Director of Housing Rehab Services Eileen Powers, Highway Superintendent Larry Mee, Assessor Dennis Stornes, and Code Officer Alan Gustafson, town residents Roland Swanson, Steve Stanton, Ann Bloomquist and Post-Journal stringer Rose Mary Carver.

Town Clerk Wallace read the Legal Notice:

The Town of Poland will hold a public hearing on March 29, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Poland Town Hall, 3593 Church Street, Kennedy NY 14747 for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Town of Poland's current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project: 931HR28-13, Poland Town Rehab Program, funded in the amount of \$400,000. The CDBG program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR), and provides resources to eligible local governments for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefiting low/moderate income persons. The hearing will provide further information about the progress of the ongoing CDBG project. Comments related to the effectiveness of administration of the CDBG project will also be received at this time. The hearing is being conducted pursuant of Section 570.486, Subpart 1 of the CFR and in compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

The Location, the Poland Town Hall, 3593 Church Street, Kennedy NY 14747, is accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, or those with hearing impairments, or those in need of translation from English, those individuals should contact Bonnita Wallace, Town Clerk, at 716-267-2912 at least one week in advance of the hearing date to allow for necessary arrangements. Written comments may also be submitted to Kelly Snow, Town Supervisor, 3593 Church Street, Kennedy NY 14747 until 1:00 pm on March 29, 2016.

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Supervisor Snow opened the floor to the Director of Housing Rehab Services Eileen Powers, for an overview of the program.

The town has had a successful run on the current grant. The contract's closeout date is April 11th, the last three projects should be to full completion by then (weather permitting).

Charlie Pillion, Program Director of the New York State Office of Community Renewal came today for a monitoring visit. He reviewed the town's compliance with various rules and regulations regarding federal requirements. The town will receive a letter determining the findings of the monitoring visit.

This year's project summary:

The Town of Poland was awarded a \$400,000 grant with the intent on assisting twelve low income homeowners with necessary home repairs to bring the properties up to HUD's housing quality standards, into compliance with lead based paint regulations and building codes. The town received 16 completed applications, 4 of which were ineligible and the other 12 were able to be assisted. At this point, nine of the projects are completed and 3 are still being worked on. The criteria required for the 12 applicants included income eligibility, all twelve assisted were 80% to median

(qualification is low income) and five of the twelve were 50% to median (which is very low income). Five of the applicants were seniors (42%), three were disabled (25%) and two were female head-of-households. The project has expended or committed all of the money awarded to the Town of Poland. Director Powers distributed a handout reflecting the process of the project.

The floor was opened for questions. Councilwoman Stanton stated one complaint was made from an applicant from the previous year project and she was wondering if the town should speak with the homeowner to see if the issues have been resolved. Director Powers stated CHRIC and the Code Enforcement Officer reviewed the project and addressed the concerns and the project is up to code standards. Councilwoman Stanton asked if there will be enough funding in the next grant to cover the main street project. Director Powers stated that main street projects and economic development projects are issued under different funding programs.

Fliers and other advertising have already been posted for the next round of funding. If the Town of Poland is going to apply to assist 10 to 12 homeowners, at least 20 pre-applications will be needed. Director Powers has already received 3 pre-applications.

Supervisor Snow thanked Director Powers and the rehab staff for all the hard work they do for the Town of Poland.

Town resident Roland Swanson asked if there is a limit on how many grants can be given to a township. Director Power said there is no limit.

Twenty-five percent (\$112,472.00) of the total project of this grant was administered by CHRIC from other state and federal sources.

After a brief discussion, Supervisor Snow closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnita R. Wallace
Town Clerk