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TOWN OF WEYMOUTH  
PLANNING BOARD  
MINUTES

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WEYMOUTH, MASS.

There was a Planning Board meeting held on Wednesday, February 25, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. in the Selectmen's Chambers of the Town Hall.

Members Present: Paul F. Lynch, Chairman  
Paul Hurley, Vice-Chairman  
Susan Abbott, Clerk  
Paul Dillon  
Patrick Leary  
Mary McElroy  
Mary Sue Ryan

Staff Present: Elizabeth Durkee C.D. Coordinator  
Kate MacDougall, C.D. Planner

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Chairman Lynch introduced Kate MacDougall the new C.D. Planner.

Opening statement on Year 24 applications by E. Durkee, C.D. Coordinator.  
Funds requested \$227,920.50, funds available \$122,700.00.

**1. Department of Elder Services:**

Request by Jean Hubbard, Coordinator of Volunteers and Larry Cassese, Chairman of the Board of Directors for \$20,262.00 for Transportation Services & CATCH program - breakdown as follows:

- \$9,882.60 - staffing an additional 5 hrs. for Transportation Coord.
- \$4,380.00 - vehicle maintenance & gasoline; includes 6 mos. gas for new van (hopes to receive in Dec.) & cell phones.
- \$6,000.00 - CATCH Program - transportation of handicapped & non ambulatory persons.

Requesting \$27,727.50 for Volunteer Coordinator salary for 3 days. There is an increase due to the fact that the cost of living raise was not funded last year. The position is in line with wage and salary scale of the Town.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Fringe benefits (insurance) for Volunteer Coordinator
- 5 additional hrs. for Transportation Coordinator
- The need for volunteers to drive
- Ages of the vans

M. Ryan asked if the services provided by the transportation program included all seniors and does it provide for caregivers and nursing home transports? Requested Ms. Hubbard check into. Ms. Ryan concerned that the program was not income driven.

J. Hubbard explained that the program is open to all over age 60 and up. She feels that 99% of the people use the program as a last resort and are desperately in need.

Both M. Ryan and M. McElroy requested feedback on the survey sent out by Dept. of Elder Services as they would like to see the breakdown.

## **2. Country Academy Children's Center:**

No representative from Country Academy attended meeting. E. Durkee to call and have them come before the Board at the next meeting - to be placed first on the agenda.

## **3. Police Department:**

Request by Officer Richard Moody, Research Development and Grant Officer for the Police Department for funds for two programs.

**A. Safe Haven for Youth Initiative** - 2 options - Full Pro. \$45,576.00 & Pilot Pro. \$28,446.00. Of the funding for both full and pilot programs, \$4,100.00 for materials and supplies.

Officer Moody stated that the program is designed for the police officer to interact with youth who are economically disadvantaged and at risk status. Two to four officers, 5 days a week at prime time with latch key youth who are the most vulnerable between the hours of 3:00 - 6:00 P.M. Concept is to protect vulnerable children.

Discussion ensued relative to other outreach programs; how the officers would work this program; number of children involved and community involvement.

P. Dillon asked if other towns had this type of program?

Officer Moody responded that Stoughton is the only Town documented and he will get the information and give to the Board.

**B. Youth Character Development Program** - requesting \$24,065.00.

R. Moody stated that the YCDF was established 2 yrs. ago under Community Policing. The program uses Karate as a medium to help develop character. Program services 12 young people for 10 weeks, ages 8-15 yrs. and is open to both sexes.

M. McElroy asked about seed monies?

Officer Moody explained that the monies came from Community Policing which is Federal monies administered by the State. Would like to expand the program by funding from Comm. Policing (2,600.00) and CDBG funds. Program is presently a 10 weeks program and a volunteer program. Expansion to 4 programs would enable more student involvement and another officer. The officer's time is donated, program is open to the whole Town and deals with teaching young people how to curtail desire for violence.

## **4. South Shore Assoc. for Retarded Citizens**

Request by Ann Holten, Director of Employment Training for \$9,000.00 for Harbor Industries and Employment Services.

A. Holten stated that SSARC currently services 88 adults with mental retardation or development disabilities. There are two workshop settings in North Weymouth along with a day activity and senior services program. Program provides for employment and training in house, job finding services, job

analysis, on job training, support services, social skills training, communication and speech services on site.

There are currently 22 individuals from Weymouth attending program and for year 24, 2 are unfunded. This funding is 50% of what is received from Dept. of Mental Retardation which is a little over \$6,000.00 per year for day services and approximately \$3,000.00 for transportation services. The request is for 50% each for the two unfunded individuals, other 20 received level funding.

#### **5. Weymouth Housing Authority**

Request by Mike Cimmino, Exec. Director of Housing Authority and Laureen Pizzi, Resident Services Coordinator for \$17, 181.00 for Resident Services Coordinator position.

M. Cimmino gave a brief presentation regarding background of the position. Reason for request is that position was funded by special grant funding and that funding has been cut back and operation reserves have been dipped into to keep position.

L. Pizzi gave brief description of her job duties which is broken down into 3 groups: family, elderly 60 & over, and young disabled over age 21. Her major role is to educate residents with regard to entitlement. She is the in-house resource for residents and reachable 24 hrs. a day. Another major part of her duties was the relocation project for Cadman Towers.

The approximate tenant population is 500. Calnan & Harrington have 156 units, Pope Towers 70 units and Cadman Towers 71 units.

Discussion took place relative to the conflict with drug & alcohol abusers living with elderly and the elevator at Pope Towers.

Regarding the elevator, E. Durkee stated that she is completing projects on hand and will be sending a memo this week letting Board know when projects are scheduled. Housing Authority is the 1st priority.

M. Cimmino stated that the mix (elderly & abusers) is bizarre but by law 13 1/2 % of units have to be occupied by young and disabled.

S. Abbott suggested that this mix be worked on.

#### **6. Parks & Recreation Department**

Request by Aaron Stump, Director for scholarships for the following:

- a. Camp Wey-Rec \$2,000.00 (150 kids)
- b. Exceptional Program - \$960.00 (35 kids weekly)
- c. Handicapped Program - \$720.00 (20 kids weekly)

A. Stump stated that the Park Dept. prides itself in the ability to offer these programs regardless of income levels. E. Durkee and A. Stump have been working on a form for eligible income levels. If levels check out, the children are then granted a scholarship and enter the program.

M. Ryan stated she thought the programs were great and M. McElroy liked the idea that the programs are offered to everyone in town.

## **7. Lakeview Manor Tenant's Association**

Request by AnnMarie Eddy, Outreach Coordinator at Lakeview Manor and Bill Fried for the following two programs:

### **A. GED Program - \$17,705.00**

A. Eddy stated that the goal is to take citizens of the Town of Weymouth who have no success at getting a high school diploma and work with them to prepare to take GED so they can go on to further training. The test is made up of five parts, math, reading, writing, social studies and science.

There are 10-15 students in each class and teacher will tutor one on one. The program is open to the whole town.

P. Dillon asked about the failure rate?

A. Eddy gave the following stats - last spring 10 took test and all 10 passed. This year, 6 took the test - 4 passed and 2 were just 2 points short. The program has a 90 to 100% pass rate.

Mr. Dillon also asked why the difference in monies. Year 23 requested \$14,400.00 and Year 24 \$17,705.00.

A. Eddy stated that they were being hopeful and would like to get more teachers but believes she could live with level funding.

### **B. Whitman's Pond Family Services - \$14,835.00**

A. Eddy stated that the program is open to anyone from the town and services 7-12 people in a given year. There is one part time counselor. Presently there are two clients from Lakeview Manor, the rest are throughout the town. Counselor works one on one with people.

P. Dillon asked about the success rate?

A. Eddy explained that you cannot call it a success rate. If you can call someone who has taken themselves out of counseling to function in the world then you would have to call that a success. She also stated they hope to service more people but could live with level funding.

## **8. Weymouth Youth & Family Services**

Request of Gloria Burke, Director and Mark Hall, Counselor for \$8,180.00 for the Teen Employment Program.

G. Burke stated that a year ago there was no program and both the kids and seniors missed it as the program made a difference in their lives. G. Burke went on to explain how the program worked.

M. Hall explained that they would hire 8 teens (13 - 17 yrs.) from low income families and pay minimum wage (\$5.25 per hr.) to work with elderly assisting with odd jobs, doing basic chores, running errands and offer companionship. The program would run 12 months with each of the 8 kids earning 1,000.00. Ratio 50/50 male and female.

Program to be advertised in Weymouth News, WJDA & Cable.

## 9. Atlantic House

Request by Linda Nardella, Program Director and Drew Welch, Housing Coordinator for \$20,000.00 for Housing Coordinator position.

L. Nardella stated that Atlantic House works with people on vocational rehabilitation skills to help adults with mental illness get back to work. Two issues are symptomatology and issues of living in the community. The purpose of the program is to help people have a good quality of life. She also stated that Dept. of Mental Health does not recognize children as a significant person and therefore no services are offered.

Ms. Nardella stated that Drew works directly with landlords i.e. 1st & last months rent and that the numbers have grown. They need to work with the legislators for changes in the salary base for staff. The reason for the request is to increase staff salary and the program is increasing.

Consensus of the Board is that it is a wonderful program.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and complete statement of all actions taken at this meeting on Wednesday February 25, 1998.

  
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Paul F. Lynch, Chairman