

LENOX TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 4:10 PM
MEMBERS PRESENT: Trombly, Kethe, Ottenbacher, Turchi (at 4:30 PM)
RESIDENTS AND GUESTS PRESENT: 5

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trombly requested an addition under New Business Letter D Set Public Hearing for reallocation of 2015 CDBG Funding.

Motion by Kethe supported by Ottenbacher to approve the agenda as amended. All Ayes. Motion passes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katherine Benford: I am here to represent Macomb Community Actions Office of Senior Services, leading the Senior Chore Services Program. The address is 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Twp, MI. I am sure everyone in the room today has had the experience of someone they know or love finding it difficult to age in their home and maintain their ability to remain active in their lifestyle. We can also imagine that these routine activities of daily life become more difficult when you have health conditions like dementia, arthritis, cancer, or COPD. All of these conditions disproportionately affect people over the age of 60. I'm sure we can imagine the extra burden that is placed on our loved ones as they age when they are dealing with these difficult chronic conditions, the loss of their independence, all while trying to age in their home on an income, of say \$750 per month. These are the people that the Senior Chore Service program is servicing. We help to keep low to moderate income older adults in their home, living with dignity and independence. We do this by providing them with support for their basic physical chores that most of us homeowners take for granted. Services like lawn cutting, snow removal, gutter cleaning, and minor home repairs like exchanging the screens on windows or placing a window air conditioning unit in. These activities not only benefit older adults but they certainly benefit the entire community. The neighborhood blight is kept at bay and the residents are able to maintain compliance with the Lenox Townships property maintenance codes. Keeping older adults in their home, through our variety of services also helps to deter home vacancies when older adults might be placed in alternative care settings or move in with family members. Last fiscal year the Senior Chores Services program provided support to three Lenox Township older adults who are in low to moderate income and we provided 164 hours of service. About 90% of the services that were provided were lawn maintenance services and these expenses were \$2,207. Year to date we are providing again service to three Lenox Township older adults and already this fiscal year we have provided 134 hours of services totaling over \$1,800. As you can see the demand for this service continues to increase and we have submitted a request for \$2,000 from Lenox Township through the Macomb County CDBG application process. These monies certainly help to leverage the state and federal dollars that are available to the office of Senior Services and help to meet that growing demand for support in Lenox Township. As well, the services we provide help to fill two of the three national CDBG policy objectives which are directly benefiting low to moderate income households and elimination of slums and blight. Moreover, I'm sure that you would agree with me when I say that the ultimate goal is to provide support to the older adults in Lenox Township so that they can age in in their home with the independence and dignity that they deserve. On behalf of the office of Senior Services I

want to thank you for your continued support of our programming. I did bring brochures which I will leave with you so that they are available for you to share with your residents if you find yourself needing to do so.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

1. 2016 Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG)

Motion by Kethe supported by Ottenbacher to open the Public Hearing at 4:15 PM on the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Funding. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Laurie Huff, 53637 Atherton Street, New Baltimore representing the New Baltimore Farmers Market: One of the reasons that we have come to ask for assistance from you is that our market was the first one in Macomb County to accept Bridge Cards and the first one in the county to offer the double-up food bucks. This is for your low and moderate income people. Last year we served nine people from Lenox Township, but part of the problem is that people don't know about our program and its availability. So one of the things we are looking for is some additional funds this year to help us do some outreach. To get to your Senior Citizens to develop flyers and to get them into City Hall and important things so that more people will use our services. We are one of the growing markets and we have been here since 2008. It's on a Sunday morning and is very highly populated, but the bridge card program is probably the best aspect that we have. Now we have taken fresh produce and vegetables and they are available to local citizens and they always say if you know who grows your food you know where it comes from. The local farmers, which are from all of Macomb and St. Clair County, are the ones that come to our market. One of the best things about the double-up food bucks, is this program is for those that come and use their Bridge Card- they are automatically entitled to up to \$20 of free, fresh vegetables and fruit as long as it's Michigan grown. This expands someone's shopping ability to access healthy fresh foods by being able to utilize this. There is no special application, all they have to do is come with their Bridge Card to our market and they are welcome to do it. We'd really like to be able to expand and let more people in Lenox Township know that we are here with those programs available to them. That's why we are asking for \$300 to help us expand this program. The market is open from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM every Sunday in downtown New Baltimore. It's a 19 week program which runs from mid-June to the end of October every Sunday except Bayrama weekend. We are downtown right next to the Recreation Department and it's hard to miss us. We average 1700 people every Sunday. Thank you very much.

Dorie Vazquez-Nolan, Executive Director of Care House, the Macomb County Advocacy Center: Care House is located in downtown Mt. Clemens. We are one of 31 accredited child advocacy centers in the State of Michigan and one of over 800 in the United States. Through referrals from law enforcement and Children's Protective Services, we focus our services on child victims of sexual and or physical abuse and their non-offending family members. We provide services to over 500 families each year. We work with all law enforcement jurisdictions in Macomb County as well as the FBI, ICE (Immigrations Customs Enforcement), Homeland Security, and the State Police, Children's Protective Services, Prosecutor's Office, medical and mental health professionals and the court systems. Over one million children in this county suffer from child abuse and neglect every year. Before child advocacy centers like Care House existed, children and families with suspicions of child abuse had to navigate an unfamiliar and sometimes scary system from police stations to hospital emergency rooms to social service agencies. Each visit often required a child to painfully relive the details of their abuse. This added more trauma to the lives of already traumatized children. Care House offers a child friendly, family centered approach and coordinates the complex investigation and treatment services for child victims of sexual and physical abuse. The key component of our program is the coordination of forensic interviews. All of the multi-disciplinary team members that are typically involved due to child abuse investigations, gather at Care House and observe the forensic interview live via closed circuit TV while one of our trained forensic

interviewers meets one-on-one with the child. This eliminates the need for a child to repeat his or her story and relive the details of the abuse and trauma over and over again. After the forensic interview, Care House offers follow-up services for child victims and their parents intervening to promote healing and supporting the family through not only the healing process, but also the investigative process. Our support services include parent and child support groups, trauma focus therapy sessions, victim advocacy, access to forensic medical examinations when necessary, referrals to other needed community services, crisis counseling, and child abuse prevention education in the community. Families are never charged for the services they receive at Care House and we provide services to all referred families. 2016 marks our 20th anniversary of providing services here in Macomb County. Since our doors opened in 1996, we have provided services to over 5,400 children. 29 of those children were residents of Lenox Township. Additionally 44 other children were residents of New Haven. Last year, in 2015, we coordinated 472 new forensic interviews for suspected victims of child abuse. Four of those were residents of Lenox Township with an additional eight children being residents of New Haven. So far in 2016, we have provided services to 65 new suspected child victims of abuse and their families, one of which was a resident of Lenox Township. Four additional children were from New Haven. We work closely with the Macomb County Sheriff's Detectives that are in the sexual abuse unit and that includes Dave Crabtree, Mark Grammatico, Kelly Simmons, Brandon Wiley, and Renee Yax. We always welcome calls from the community with questions or concerns about what may or may not be normal child sexual behavior and our phone number is (586) 463-0123 and our website www.mccarehouse.org. This year we are respectfully requesting funding in the amount of \$600 which would support services for one child victim that is a resident of Lenox Township. We are very grateful for the past support that we have received from Lenox Township and I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

Lauren Mette resident advocate at Turning Point Shelter program: I am here as a representative for our shelter program to request \$1,000 in Community Block Grant Funding to help assist in providing shelter services for abused and homeless women and children from Lenox Township. We provide comprehensive shelter services to one resident from Lenox Township. CDBG funds would be used directly and only to provide support services for women and children who are residents of Lenox Township and who are homeless due to violence. For over 30 years, our shelter has offered a comprehensive array of services designed to support survivors of violence and to assist them in securing the resources needed to make a fresh start. The services include children's advocacy, 24 hour crisis intervention, support groups, medical support, skill building, employment and housing searches, and case management. We are particularly proud of the shelter's comprehensive children's program which provides emotional support, education, safety planning, child care, and recreation for young people in the shelter from birth to 17 years. Our residents are provided three meals daily, personal needs items including clothing from our secondhand store, 24 hour staff availability, children's programs including a very successful summer camp program, access to our counseling and therapy programs at outreach services, core advocacy, and civil legal assistance. Per the federal guidelines for CDBG and per the priorities of housing, homelessness, and community development projects, our program responds to the national objectives of benefiting low and moderate income persons and responding to other community development needs that have a particular urgency. Such as responding to and working to provide immediate safety, support, and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Instead of asking for funding support, I would rather be here to inform you that there is no longer violence within the homes of residents of Lenox Township and Macomb County. Unfortunately, Turning Point's 24 hour crisis line and the fact that our shelter is full most of the time, demonstrates daily that family violence continues, contributes to homelessness, and that our services are greatly needed. Turning Point's commitment to ending domestic violence and sexual violence cannot happen without support of our community. Please help us to maintain this crucial and viable service by supporting the continuation of Grant Funding support. Thank you for this opportunity to address this council and for your consideration in providing part of the solution for a community response to domestic violence. Do you have any questions?

Jeanette Ventimiglia spoke for LuAnne Kandell Lenox Township Senior Center Director, requesting CDBG funds: I passed out an email from LuAnne requesting funds for the senior program. The amount requested was left up to the Board of Trustees, as she knows how limited the Township is on the funds. Thank you.

Motion by Kethe seconded by Ottenbacher to close the Public Hearing at 4:27 PM. All Ayes. Motion passes.

5. NEW BUSINESS

2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRAND FUNDS (CDBG)

Clerk Kethe remarked that the difficulty is that the Township has \$1,070 total in money that we can do for services. The Chore is taken out right from the top and she already probably knew she was getting the money. What everyone has asked for is \$1,900 and that's not including what LuAnne requested.

Supervisor Trombly stated that the Board is going to have to reallocate the other money.

Kethe explained that \$1,070 is the 15% allowable for services.

Comment: I can't speak for anyone else but we would be grateful with any amount even if it were a reduced amount.

Kethe recapped that present requesters are New Baltimore Farmers Market, Care House, Turning Point, and the Lenox Township Senior Center.

Trombly stated that an equal division between all parties is \$267.50.

Trustee Turchi added that \$250 each and then \$320 for the seniors would equal that amount.

Kethe detailed that if the Board cut every request in half of the ones that are present- would leave \$120 for the Senior Center.

Turchi wondered if some of the funds are going to the EMS.

Kethe explained that because the Board has approved the capital funding to go towards revamping the old building to accommodate the senior center.

Trombly inquired if Kethe got the letter.

Treasurer Ottenbacher remarked that this came very late today.

Kethe responded that she had not seen any letter.

Trombly explained that instead of remodeling the old building, because Lenox would have to dedicate that whole building to a Senior Center for life, the Board could reallocate that money to use it for emergency home repairs for Lenox residents.

Kethe commented that this sounds similar to what Chore Services does.

Trombly remarked that we tried restrooms and everything and this is the only program he came up with.

Ottenbacher stated that they make it very difficult for what you can use the money for.

Kethe inquired if this program is specifically for Lenox or all of Macomb County.

Trombly acknowledged this program would be just for Lenox Township low to moderate income residents. They are to set up a training program and train someone in the Township; Lenox has 18 months to assign

that money. This information came late due to everything that was involved. This is the only thing that is really available to the residents.

Motion by Kethe supported by Ottenbacher to allocate Community Development Block Grant Funds as follows:

Chore automatically gets \$2,000 off the top from Macomb County

New Baltimore Farmers Market \$250

Care House \$250

Turning Point \$250

Lenox Township Senior Center \$320

and \$10,278 worth of capital allocation to the minor home repair program through Macomb County.

Roll Call: Turchi . Aye, Ottenbacher . Aye, Kethe . Aye, Trombly . Aye. Motion passes.

A. SHORETEL TELEPHONE CONTRACT RENEWAL

Clerk Kethe explained that the Shoretel Telephone Contract takes care of anything that goes wrong or is damaged in the telephone system . it is not the actual phones.

Motion by Kethe supported by Turchi to pay the Shoretel support for one year at a cost of \$1,716. All Ayes. Motion passes.

B. TYCO SECURITY SYSTEM WIRELESS BACKUP

Clerk Kethe reported that it is required to have a backup phone system for the security in the old building and the current building. It is necessary to have a landline or a wireless phone. The telephones currently in place are 3G and have been in place since 2000, the phone companies are not going to support that any more. TYCO needs to replace what is currently installed with a 4G system, at the cost of \$400 + tax for each building.

Ottenbacher inquired if the Township would have to pay the tax?

Kethe responded that that probably was quoted in error, she would have to review the paperwork.

Motion by Kethe supported by Ottenbacher to upgrade the telephone backup system for the security at a cost of \$400 each. All Ayes. Motion passes.

C. SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR RE-ALLOCATION OF 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Clerk Kethe inquired if this could be done at the regular March Board of Trustees Meeting.

Supervisor Trombly explained that this cannot be done until the April meeting as it must be publicized.

Deputy Supervisor Jeanette Ventimiglia reported that CDBG Funds can be re-allocated at any time.

Trombly detailed the difficulty of allocating funds for home repairs because residents do not usually inquire at the Township Offices and it has to be for a specific purpose.

Ventimiglia explained that the minor home repairs that was just allocated is good for 18 months, by December 30, 2017. The reallocation of the 2015 funds still has to be spent by Dec 30, 2016.

Motion by Kethe to set a Public Hearing for April 4, 2016, during the Board of Trustees Meeting and to authorize Jeanette finds out for sure whether or not it has to be actually published in the newspaper or not.

Kethe explained it would be much cheaper to post it on the website as opposed to \$300+ for a publication in the newspaper. In reviewing the invoices for payment that were published, none of them are under \$300.

Supported by Turchi. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Trombly said his biggest concern is that he does not want to spend that money to fix up a house that the bank is going to be getting. He wants to make sure it is someone that is going to be allowed to stay in their home.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Trustee Turchi reported that there was a Planning Commission meeting last night that was really productive. They spent 45 minutes to an hour hashing out ideas about the Master Plan. Pushing out ideas of how to get people to do the survey. Completing the survey is easier for the Commission if they do it online because it is automatically tabulated however, not everyone has a computer. Each Planning Commission member got 10 hard copies that they are trying to disperse to people. She remarked that the Planners and the Commission complimented Jodi that she has done a really good job on the website. You just click on it and we have got some responses that way. The members also talked about ideas of maybe doing a focus group meeting where developers and universities would be invited and have an open forum meeting to offer ideas for the Township and they could be given information packets showing what Lenox offers.

Clerk Kethe mentioned that Karen Kaltz should be given credit for working so hard on the website.

Treasurer Ottenbacher remarked that she is doing a super job.

Supervisor Trombly relayed closure information regarding a large snowstorm that was to hit southeastern Michigan.

Kethe said that if everyone was signed up for the alerts, Karen Kaltz would put it on the Township site, and it would be sent to everyone's phones. If one gets texts, it comes across in a text. It informs when there is a meeting or alerts - so then it would not be necessary to do the round robin. She asked to be informed of a closure first so she can ensure that the doors stay locked and she can contact Karen Kaltz to get the alert out.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ottenbacher seconded by Kethe to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 PM. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Kethe
Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Swantek
Recording Secretary