

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
APRIL 12, 1993

President Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with all of Council present with the exception of Mrs. Rice. Also in attendance: Mayor Linn, Mr. Oyler, Chief Gantz, Mr. Sterner, Dr. Powell and Tracy Lower representing the Gettysburg Times.

The following citizens were also in attendance: Jean Odom, Director of SCCAP (South Central Community Action Programs, Inc.), Megan Shreve of the Wee Care Learning Center, Will Lane and Mark Malone representing the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice, and Virginia Wilhelm, Director of the Adams County Housing Authority.

Dr. Powell gave a brief summary of the proposals submitted for the \$140,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds allocated to the Borough for FY-1993, noting that Council would need to take final action at its meeting on May 10th. He noted that the following proposals for funding were received, totalling \$167,700:

Adams County Housing Authority for the Frderick Douglass Homes Project on West High and Franklin Streets: \$78,000

South Central Community Action Programs, Inc. for renewed funding for the Adams County Shelter for the Homeless: \$15,000.

Adams County Interfaith Housing Corporation for administrative support for the Homeownership Coordinator: \$12,600

South Central Community Action Programs, Inc. on behalf of the "Meade School Project" to conduct a feasibility study on the use of Meade School as a community/daycare center: \$10,000

The Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice for a "Needs and Resources Assessment" for the Gettysburg Social Services: \$4,500

Borough of Gettysburg for administration of the "CDBG" program and for grants manager: \$12,600

Borough of Gettysburg for acquisition of 135 West Middle Street: \$35,000

Will Lane and Mark Malone introduced themselves, and noted that they were interested in the Borough's support of a project to conduct an assessment of where and how local social service agencies might better serve the minority and low income population, for many of these residents have been missed in traditional "surveys" conducted by agencies such as United Way. In discussions with both SCCAP and the YWCA there is a recognition that other services are probably needed, but the only way to determine these is by conducting a "Needs Assessment." Mark Malone noted that this would be a cooperative project involving student volunteers from Gettysburg College's Center For Public Service and from Mount Saint Mary's College, and the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice. The proposed funds would be used to hire clerical staff and a possible consultant.

Jean Odom spoke briefly on behalf of the Adams County Shelter for the Homeless, noting that over 600 people had to be turned away last year, and that the Shelter is almost always operating at capacity. The funding requested would enable the Shelter to maintain a caseworker currently on staff.

On a separate issue, Jean spoke on the desperate need for expanded daycare facilities, noting that Meade School would be an excellent location for an expanded facility, and that preliminary estimates from a local architect and the Department of Labor and Industry indicate the building could be adapted for about \$150,000. She urged the Borough's support for use of the building, and also noted that CDBG funds, if allocated, would be applied towards rehab costs. Megan Shreve, Director of Wee Care Learning Center, affirmed the need for expanded daycare, being quick to point out that this facility would not compete with other daycare centers in the Borough, which are already filled to capacity. She noted that based on the projected budget for the new facility, it would be very feasible.

Virginia Wilhelm, Director of Adams County Interfaith Housing Corporation and the Adams County Housing Authority, reported on the Frederick Douglass Homes project, noting a need for CDBG funds to close a major gap in pre-development costs and in actual financing of the units. The proposed project would be composed of 12 units, with up to a three year lease-purchase agreement for eligible buyers. On a separate matter, Ms. Wilhelm thanked the Borough for its continuing support of the homeownership program, and asked for additional financial support for existing staff.

There were some questions from Council directed to Dr. Powell about the property at 135 West Middle Street, and he agreed to provide more details before the next Council meeting.

With no further business the public hearing was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sara L. Weaver*

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Borough Secretary