

The stated meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 via webinar and the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Winegrad presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners WINEGRAD, DiPLACIDO, HENRY
Excused: Commissioners VAHEY, SPIEGELMAN

OTHERS: Finance Director Hermann
Manager of Financial Services Embery
Deputy Chief Porter

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from November 16, 2023.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation on the Proposed Substantial Amendments to 2023 & 2022 CDBG Annual Action Plans:

Ms. Kim Hamm, Director of Community Development, said these are substantial amendments to action plans that the Board previously approved. The amendments are a result of a project coming in under budget and another one funded through different means, so those funds will be repurposed for other activities.

CDBG is the Community Development Block Grant Program in which Abington Township is an entitlement community that receives direct allocation annually from HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) to administer CDBG funds that supports community development activities to build stronger, more resilient communities improving quality of life.

Projects include economic development, municipal public improvements, housing and human services projects and programs that principally benefit low-to moderate income persons and neighborhoods with the highest percentage of low-to moderate income residents.

Annual Action Plan Amendment Schedule –

Presentation of substantial amendments presented to the Finance Committee this evening; January 29-March 1st will be a public display of the draft; February 15th will be a public hearing and residents are invited to submit their comments. The submission of the final plan to the Board of Commissioners for their approval will be held on March 14th, and submission will be sent to HUD for approval on March 15th.

Proposed Substantial Amendment for 2022 –

Proposed is to cancel the Spot Blight Residential Demolition project in the amount of \$20,385 and increase the Emergency Repairs Program by that same amount in which the funds could be used to make emergency repairs for possibly one or two homes for those in need. To date, three emergency repairs have been made and two more are currently being done.

Commissioner DiPlacido asked how much does the average emergency repair cost?

Ms. Hamm replied it is a \$15,000 program and there is no further investment beyond that amount.

Commissioner Winegrad asked about a waiting list.

Ms. Hamm replied there is a waiting list for the Whole Home Repair Program with 83 people on the list. There is no waiting list for the emergency repair program as it is part of the initial screening process for the Whole Home Repair Program where a questionnaire is provided making sure there are no emergencies such as issues that could potentially condemn a home.

Commissioner DiPlacido asked about the timeframe for the bidding process, and is there a list of approved contractors?

Ms. Hamm replied it depends on how many line items are included in the scope of work. We have a list of approximately 55 prequalified contractors that are shared with other communities with similar programs.

Proposed Substantial Amendment for 2021 –

Proposed is to cancel the Public Facilities Improvements – Grove Park project in the amount of \$260,000 and increase the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program by that same amount. This is a comprehensive program where all code-deficient issues are addressed within the home where the homeowners receive a \$25,000 grant via HUD, and we have greatly increased our pace to address more homes under this program.

Commissioner DiPlacido asked if we continue at this pace could the Township apply for more funding as needed.

Ms. Hamm replied there are other potential funding sources such as State Home Grants funded by HUD in which we will continue to pursue.

Commissioner DiPlacido questioned whether funds could be moved back to a project if needed.

Ms. Hamm replied there is the potential to add it back to future action plans; however, we need to go through the same process and make another amendment.

Commissioner Winegrad said he has always been a proponent of increasing these allotted federal funds to the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program to help those in need.

Ms. Hamm said these amendments will be publicly advertised and a public hearing will be held next month. Then it will be listed on the agenda of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting in March.

Item FC-01-020824:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the December 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$3,967,109.97 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$3,671,999.25 and authorize the proper officials to sign and approve invoices and supporting documentation in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of March 2024.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment. There was none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary