

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2010
****SPECIAL MEETING****

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by Mayor Mary Boring. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present
Jo-Ann Hite – present
Ray Robinson – absent
Jimmy Barber, Jr. – absent
Garry Boring – present
Lowell Hite – present
Mary Boring – present
Aaron Reedy – present

Visitors: Holly Matti and James Mako, Fairfield County Regional Planning
Michael Betts, GGC Engineers
Michelle Shumaker, Village of Thurston

James opened the discussion with an explanation of how the formula works. He said only 1 village can be chosen from the county to apply for funding from the state. Applications need to be in by April 16th and that the grant is a maximum of \$300,000.00.

The grant is very competitive and is based on a scoring system. Applicants need at least 100 points to compete. Thurston is comparable to Pleasantville, the only other applicant for Fairfield County. James suggested that Thurston get word out to the community about the grant and get the citizens, along with any public groups (such as Kiwanis, etc.), to support the villages efforts.

Thurston can claim the proposed income tax as a benefit if we can prove how it applies to the application. Regardless of who is chosen to apply to the state, there will still be some formula funds that can help towards village projects.

Michael reviewed the project list:

- Meters – how the current meters are causing high water loss and the village desires radio-read meters as replacements. He also indicated that there are some meter pits that are caving in and remarked that some meters are in basements.
- Sidewalks – they are in very poor condition, even non-existent in some areas.
- Park Improvements – current playground equipment is over 50 years old and not in good shape (or even usable).
- Municipal Building - needs a lot of work: roof, soffit and handicap accessibility, such as a ramp and automatic door.
- Storm Sewer Improvements – all lines need to be replaced.

- Street-scape – improve the appearance of the village with decorative columns that have the village name when people are entering at either location, street lettering, fence in the cemetery and possibly add a gate. It would also be nice to complete street paving if the other application to OPWC, submitted last fall, is approved. If it is, it will cover about 60% of the streets. We should know about this by the end of May.
- Old Fire Station – renovate for use as a community center.
- Booster Station – might replace pumps and piping. The village is currently getting ready to paint and upgrade the water storage tank, thanks to a grant that was awarded last fall.

Holly and James both noted that we could not include repairs to the Municipal Building, unless they were related to handicap access. It would be acceptable to improve the old fire station since it would be used as a community center. Michael said that we would consider alternate projects if necessary. It would be a good idea to include documentation on the public meetings for the income tax to help build our application and to plan for more public meetings to get feedback from the residents on what they feel the village needs.

Michael indicated that OPWC funds are available in July. Also, a revitalization project with a 2011 construction date would allow 2 years to complete.

The question was asked about how much of the income tax the village is expecting to get can be applied to the project next year. Aaron said we can't be sure since the tax hasn't been passed yet and funds will not be fully paid for 2-3 years. The village might be getting between \$32-45,000 once it's in full cycle, and council would need to approve the application of the funds to the projects.

Aaron said the village is running really tight on funds right now, especially in the General Fund. We might be able to take some money, possibly \$20,000, from the Streets and State Highway Funds. The Water Operating Fund needs to be left alone, but maybe use some towards the water system project if we had to. Holly asked James if meter replacement could be included on the application and he said yes.

There is a need to maximize leverage funds and community involvement, but Holly said not to go broke trying to do this. Aaron agreed, but also mentioned that we really shouldn't have too much money on hand anyway. Council needs to decide on the amounts that can be applied by April 16th.

Michael said he will submit the application so that it indicates we're open to any of the projects being funded and that we should know something in September. He also pointed out that the program is underutilized, so not too many applicants are in the pool.

Lowell asked about weatherization programs for the Municipal Building. Holly and James agreed that those programs are mostly geared toward residential structures. Holly said that Fairfield County Community Action is applying for a CHIP grant for home

improvements in low-income communities. Their application is due April 1st. Residents will need to approach Community Action, so we would need to let our people know if the funding is approved.

JoAnn made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Garry.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Shumaker
Secretary