

The June 12, 2010 special public hearing & comment period to discuss and approve a grant application for the 2010 USDA Section 533 Rural Development Program for Low/Moderate Income Home Rehabilitations was held at 1:30pm, in the Municipal Building, 111 River Styx Road, Hopatcong, NJ.

Mayor Petillo announced this meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., special notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald, the Daily Record, The Star Ledger, and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

Present -Mayor Petillo, Administrator- Catherine Steinel, Councilmembers: Howard Baker, Richard Bunce, Mike Francis, and John Young. ABSENT: Galate and McManus. Mike Francis made motion to excuse Marie Galate, seconded by Richard Bunce. Richard Bunce motioned to excuse Madeline McManus, seconded by Mike Francis. Vote was unanimous.

#### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Petillo explained to all attending that this was a meeting to discuss and approve a grant application for the 2010 USDA Section 533 Rural Development Program for either low/moderate income home rehabilitations. Mayor Petillo explained that this grant would help allow us to give residents money for sewer, water or any other home issues (boilers, roofs) as just an example. We can use this along with our Small Cities Grant or with the HUD program in which Gloria Quenault is involved with and helps out a lot of people. This grant is for \$55,000.00 and is worth going for this year. Councilman Bunce asked if this grant would be used for things like fuel assistance or electric bills, and Mayor Petillo responded no.

Open to Public: None was forthcoming. Councilman Bunce moved to close comment period, seconded by Baker. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution: #230-10 –Authorize application to the USDA Section 533 Rural Development Program for Low/Moderate Income Home Rehabilitations. Councilman Bunce moved, seconded by Baker. Vote was unanimous. **ABSENT-** Galate, McManus.

Administrator Steinel spoke about another grant which is the section 504 Grant and that with meeting with the representatives from the USDA this grant cannot be applied with through the Borough but with the residents whom are senior citizens. Mrs. Steinel has supplied Councilwoman Galate with the packets so that she may inform the seniors down at the Civic Center. Mrs. Steinel would like Marie Galate to speak with the seniors and give them a little time to digest the idea, and have Marie explain how the program would in fact work. The USDA did offer to come back and speak with the seniors if need be. Mike Francis said that they did come up a few years ago to speak at a senior meeting which was held at St. Jude's and that a few seniors did take advantage of the program talked about at that time. Mr. Bunce asked if this grant is for home improvements. Mrs.

Steinel said yes, and that with this program allows for a lot more flexibility when it comes to the financial end of it. Sometimes seniors are slightly above what our State and Federal government thinks an ability to survive on. This is a loan program with a portion being a grant. There is a 20 year program at 1% interest so if someone wants to do work around the house that is necessary and they are not eligible for the assistance program they can apply for the 504 Grant program instead and have those repairs done. To pay for a \$10,000 dollars for a repair over the 20 year program would most likely fit, or some of the properties become deteriorated because the seniors cannot afford to have repairs done. Councilman Bunce and Council President Francis agreed with the fact that there would be money there that could be used.

Mayor Petillo explained that between the HUD monies and the 504 Grant the Borough would get the monies out to the people who really need the help.

Administrator Steinel explained that we are trying to get out as many avenues to the seniors as we can to assist them. She will speak with Marie Galate, as senior liaison, about approaching the seniors with this idea. Mrs. Steinel wanted it clear that the 533 Grant would be for anyone, and the 504 Grant would only be for the seniors. Gloria Quenault would manage the 533 program. Everyone in attendance agreed.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:15pm. Motioned by Bunce, seconded by Baker. Vote was unanimous. **ABSENT** – Galate, McManus.

Respectfully submitted:  
Laura Burns, Deputy Municipal Clerk