

**Village of Chester Public Hearing  
June 14, 2021**

**The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held a Public Hearing at the Chester Senior Center Located at 81 Laroe Rd., Chester NY, 10918** on Monday, June 14, 2021. Members present: Mayor John Thomas Bell, Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato, Trustee Alan Battiato, and Trustee Brian J. Boone. Trustee Elizabeth Reilly was absent.

Also, present Attorney for the Village, Mary Marzolla of Feerick, Nugent, MacCartney PLLC, Village Treasurer Angela O'Neill, Police Chief Timothy McGuire, Street Superintendent Charles Bono, and Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr. Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr. was absent.

In the audience: Leslie Smith, Clif Patrick, Gordon Shehab, Nikki Mayer, David Stevenson, Richard Ramsdell Holly Werner, Tom Flynn, Anthony Quinn Suzanne Lakis and Eden Itzcowitz.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. The notice which appeared in the Times Herald Record read as follows:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, on June 14, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. at the at the Chester Senior Center, 81 Laroe Road, in the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York the Village of Chester, Village Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application, at which time and place all interested persons may appear and will be given an opportunity to be heard either in support of, or in opposition to, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application.

The full text of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application is filed with, and is in the custody of, the Village Clerk at 47 Main Street, Chester, New York, is posted at said office, and may be examined by any interested person on the Village's website ([villageofchesterny.org](http://villageofchesterny.org)) on May 20, 2021. If you do not have access to the website, please call the Village Clerk's Office (845-469-2388, ext.222 or 232) to make the necessary arrangements to obtain a copy during regular business hours at the above address up to and including 4:30 p.m., on June 11, 2021.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
VILLAGE OF CHESTER, NEW YORK**

Rebecca Rivera  
Village Clerk  
Dated: May 20, 2021

Mayor John Thomas Bell asked if any member of the audience have questions. Gordon Shehab of 68 High Street, I review the CDBG that is on the website and strongly urge the Village Board to vote no to the program. Under this grant the Federal Government withhold the grant money if you do not do exactly what they want. This is what happen to Westchester County a few years back.

According to what I read, the program monies can only be used to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, for low- and moderate-income people. That is a trojan horse that would allow the Federal Government under HUD to override zoning laws and you will be powerless to stop them. The program states providing housing and preserve the federal housing stock and increasing the affordable housing and transitioning homeless person and families into housing. Do we want another Camp LaGuardia in Chester because that is what this program will allow the Federal government to mandate? To generate economic opportunities to low to moderate income to achieve self-sufficiency. Sounds a like a ?? goal but why do we need the federal government to interfere with our local life.

In addition, on the website and a lot of paperwork recourse that you have to give to federal agencies before you get an approval for it. Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), you must solicit minorities, woman own business enterprises before commencing work and document these efforts involving these enterprises to be check during the project term. Its requiring a notice of invitation for bids for Section 3 low income covered contracts opportunities for low or very low-income contracts to be sent directly to all qualified low-income business' in the area. The documentation that the invitation was sent is required to be submitted to the office CD

after the bid opening is conducted. Section 3 low-income business concerns is not for prime contract, if they are not then the awarded contract must employ 25 percent of their work force as Section low-income people.

There is reason why I bring that up is you can see the mass of regulations that you are going to get yourself into. I'm retired from the Federal Government, I know what the Government does with regulations and how much they require. In our discussions with our comprehensive planner (Alan Sorenson) you saw that he was mistaken notion originally that 2/3 of the Village was single family housing, when in actuality it was 1/3. So, what advantage does the program give to the Village? Nothing really, instead it gives the Federal Government control over local communities. Is that what you want? Is that what the residents want? I do not think so.

You would be mistaken if you think this program will give the Village funds to improve infrastructure or higher pay for more people or raise salaries, whatever. The monies may only be used by projects approved by the Federal government for low to moderate income and homeless. Each project proposed may be viewed by HUD.

In concluding the program in my opinion will not benefit the current residents of Chester. As I said before, it is a Trojan horse that will allow the federal government to supersede your zoning laws, will tie you up in a mass of paperwork and regulations for which you will have no time to conduct normal village business. In addition, monies received can be used for low to moderate income or homeless housing. Do we need to make Chester a magnet for the homeless? Look at the streets of Los Angeles and San Francisco, they have homeless everywhere, in school athletic fields, in front of businesses and homes. Finally, after all the Village has done to prevent high density housing at the BT Holding's property, and all the time that was spent and all the money that was spent, HUD can come back and mandate the low-income high-density housing.

Anthony Quinn of 77 Main Street,  
Leslie Smith of 117 Brookside Ave,  
Mary Marzolla of Feerick, Nugent, MacCartney PLLC  
Gordon Shehab,  
David Stevenson of 16 Elm Street,

The public hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m. on a motion made by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato, second by Trustee Brian J. Boone. On a vote of 4 to 0 the public hearing was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Rivera  
Village Clerk