

# **Minutes**

## **Town Council Meeting**

**December 11, 2007**

## **Camden Community Building**

### **Community Development Block Grant**

**Office of Rural Affairs**

**Community Focus Fund**

**Cornerstone Grants Management**

The public meeting for the Community Development Block Grant, CCF Program, was called to order by Council President Pete Wagoner. Present were Member Michele Everett, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, attorney Anne Briggs and sixteen guests. Mr. Wagoner opened the meeting by introducing Ms. Amy Miller of Cornerstone Grants Management and Mr. Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corp.

Ms. Miller explained the community had applied for this grant in the past two rounds of application but failed to reach a score high enough to be funded. This evening's meeting was the eighth public hearing on the project and Ms. Miller thanked the citizens for their continued support of the project.

The lowest awarded score for the most recent round was 749 points and Camden's grant ranked 743 points. The public hearing is part of the requirements for the grant and gives an opportunity for the community to give input and have questions answered. The wastewater project is required due to restrictions that have now been imposed by IDEM, to update the system and to eliminate safety issues at the lift station and ponds. Funding will come from this \$500,000 grant and a loan of \$250,000 from the State Revolving Loan Program. It will be financially irresponsible and cost prohibitive to do the project without securing these funds. Even with the loan and grant, a rate increase can be expected. Ms. Miller will submit the proposal on January 11, the application deadline is March 14th, awards are announced in May and construction could begin in the summer or fall.

Ms. Miller gave a review of how the scoring was done and points awarded to Camden. Areas will be improved upon for the next application in the hopes of securing funds.

Mr. Smith spoke briefly on the project and the need for the sewage plant to meet state mandate requirements. The plant must hold a permit to function and the upgrades will enable the town to be in compliance. The system is thirty-five years old and needs updated. The state has implemented local mandates which we can not meet, particularly in the winter. The lift station has serious safety issues which need correction and backup power (generator) is necessary. This is a serious issue for the town and improvements are necessary to put the town back in “good standings” with the state.

Mr. Wagoner stated the town can not meet the new limits and there is no choice but to get the work done. A grant will help to keep the expected rate increase to a manageable amount but public support is critical. Citizens were once again urged to write letters of support and send them to the town office or to Ms. Miller. Letters can be accepted up to the first week of March for inclusion in this grant application.

Being there were no other questions or comments, the public hearing adjourned at 7:15.

Camden Town Council

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Peter F. Wagoner, President

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Andrew Robison, Member

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Michele Everett, Member

ATTEST:

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P.A. Casserly  
Clerk-Treasurer