

TOWN BOARD

COUNTY OF ALBANY

TOWN OF COLONIE

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A PUBLIC HEARING AND SUBSEQUENT VOTE REGARDING THE  
PROPOSED TOWN OF COLONIE 2019/2020 COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK ENTITLEMENT ACTION PLAN

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THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled  
matter by NANCY L. STRANG, a Shorthand Reporter, on  
May 9 2019 7:15 p.m. at Memorial Town Hall 534 Loudon  
Road, Newtonville, New York 12128

BOARD MEMBERS:

- PAULA A. MAHAN, SUPERVISOR
- LINDA MURPHY, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR
- PAUL ROSANO
- DAVID GREEN
- CHRISTOPHER CAREY
- MELISSA JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN
- JENNIFER WHALEN

ALSO PRESENT:

- Michael C. Magguilli, Esq. Town Attorney
- Julie Gansle, Town Clerk
- Nancy Andriano
- Goria Knorr

1 MS. GANSLE: This public hearing is being held by  
2 order of the Town Board in conjunction with the  
3 Villages of Colonie and Menands for the purpose of  
4 obtaining the views and comments of citizens and other  
5 interested parties on what projects should be included  
6 in the proposed Town of Colonie 2019/2020 Community  
7 Development BLOCK Entitlement Action Plan.

8 Notice of such hearing has been published in the  
9 official Town newspaper which is the Spotlight and has  
10 been posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin Board. I have  
11 an affidavit for each. The Town Board will now here all  
12 persons interested in this proposal.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Nancy?

14 MS. ADRIANO: Good evening. For those of you who  
15 don't know me my name is Nancy Andriano and I'm the  
16 Director of Community Development for the Town of  
17 Colonie.

18 For consideration before the Board this evening is  
19 the Town's Annual Entitlement Action Plan.

20 In its 2019 budget request the President again  
21 called for the elimination of both the CDBG and HOME  
22 programs. Fortunately, when Congress and the White House  
23 finally reached a budget deal, the spending package  
24 level funding of CDBG experienced only a slight decrease  
25 in the HOME program. So, for 2019 the Town received

1 \$351,898 and block grant funds \$101,556 in HOME funds.

2 At the March 6 public hearing, the Community  
3 Development Citizen Advisory Committee reached a  
4 unanimous agreement to recommend the following projects  
5 for inclusion in the plan; \$20,000 for childcare  
6 scholarship program; \$5000 for the adult day care  
7 scholarship program; \$256,000 for residential  
8 rehabilitation program and \$70,300 for program  
9 administration. So, the breakdown of Block Grant funding  
10 for 2019 is 73% for housing rehab, 70% for public  
11 services and 20% for program administration.

12 The HOME funds will again be used for the Town's  
13 first-time home buyer program. In addition to Block  
14 Grant and HOME funds the Town received \$2.6 million for  
15 its housing choice voucher program which provides rental  
16 assistance for Town residents.

17 I would be happy to answer any questions that you  
18 might have.

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Does the Board have any  
20 questions regarding these amounts of money, or anything  
21 else about the grant?

22 (There was no response.)

23 Anyone in the audience? Gloria?

24 MS. KNORR: Do you help veterans?

25 MS. ANDRIANO: We have no programs for veterans.

1 There is no preference. These are all HUD funded  
2 programs. They are all done by federal regulations. So,  
3 there are no specific programs that the Town is funded  
4 for through HUD that is specific to veterans.

5 MS. KNORR: Is there a way that you can get a  
6 grants or try to get it?

7 I will tell you this: I tried to have housing for  
8 veterans. I was going to a counselor and he worked with  
9 the VA and he told me to call Albany Housing Coalition,  
10 Soldier On. So, I called Albany Housing Coalition and I  
11 thought I was working with them. I sent a contract with  
12 a man. He liked the property then, as soon as Albany  
13 Housing Coalition knew that Times Union was interested  
14 in 5 acres, they asked me how much Times Union offered  
15 me.

16 I want to help veterans. I am not helping any  
17 organization unless it is directly for veterans and not  
18 for any organization to keep the lights on - directly  
19 that I wanted for veterans.

20 So, I told him that I signed a contract. It was the  
21 Board of the Albany Housing Coalition who told me that  
22 they didn't want to work with the man that I signed a  
23 contract with. This was very upsetting to me because if  
24 I'm going to make any money from this property, it's  
25 going to be for my four sons to go to college before

1 they ever going to the Army. So, if any man has served  
2 our country and protected us and saw and have war wounds  
3 and see what my son said - what my son said to me was  
4 fighters in the scorpions and everything was not - that  
5 people complained about that. He said man is more cruel  
6 than that.

7 So, when they come back, I would have like soldiers  
8 - - guess what, when I called them they said that they  
9 were putting other money into the Ann Lee home. So, if  
10 there was ever a way - - I know they have some houses.  
11 They have some houses but Albany Housing Coalition  
12 places them in Albany. Do you think I wouldn't have  
13 wanted a veteran and his family to go to Southgate  
14 school where the farm is, or that I would have wanted to  
15 work with them? I was at a bad time then. My son had  
16 just died.

17 I will look and I will keep pursuing but I was so  
18 disappointed that self interest comes before the  
19 veterans who have served our country. We have to do  
20 better for them.

21 Now Soldier Heart in Troy has stopped although they  
22 are still having retreats, but he was wonderful. He said  
23 take the veterans back to where they had the war wounds  
24 in Vietnam and all. If anybody would know, I belong to  
25 an American Legion, but I have not talked to any

1 officials in the American Legion or the VFW. I will tell  
2 you that I am sickened by it.

3 MS. ANDRIANO: All the money that comes in to the  
4 county - it goes to the VA and it goes to Soldier On it  
5 goes to the Albany Housing Coalition for veterans. They  
6 do run excellent programs.

7 I am on the Board of the Albany County Coalition  
8 for homelessness in both the Albany County Housing  
9 Coalition and Soldier On serves on the Board. There's  
10 not a lot of interest. We were lucky that Soldier On was  
11 coming to Colonie with their housing program.

12 Most everything is centered in the City of Albany  
13 because they show a greater need. We do work regionally,  
14 even though it's not in Colonie. As I said, I serve on  
15 the Board of some of these things so we do have a  
16 regional approach to a lot of the issues. So, it might  
17 not be centered in Colonie, which would be nice but if  
18 it can't be at least we know - a big focus for the  
19 Albany County Coalition for homelessness over the last  
20 few years has been veterans and veterans homelessness.  
21 We've really gotten the numbers down. So, there is an  
22 effort and we are trying. With everything else, funds  
23 are limited.

24 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you Gloria.

25 Thank you, Nancy.

1           Anyone else?

2           (There was no response.)

3           We will close the public hearing.

4           MS. GANSLE: We have a Resolution adopting the  
5           Town of Colonie's 2019 Annual Entitlement Action Plan  
6           and authorizing the Supervisor to submit said plans to  
7           the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
8           and to execute all related documents pertaining to the  
9           CDBG home and Section 8 programs.

10          MR. CAREY: So moved.

11          MR. GREEN: Second.

12          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Supervisor votes aye. Clerk,  
13          call the roll.

14          (The roll was called.)

15          MS. GANSLE: The ayes have it, Madam Supervisor.

16          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The Resolution is adopted.

17          (Whereas the above entitled proceeding was  
18          concluded at 7:20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

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I, NANCY L. STRANG, Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, hereby CERTIFY that the record taken by me at the time and place noted in the heading hereof is a true and accurate transcript of same, to the best of my ability and belief.

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NANCY L. STRANG

Dated \_\_\_\_\_