

**WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 21, 2015**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

**Committee Members Present:** C. Jessup, P. Curran, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, LaForge, D. Pullen, D. Root, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Fanton)

**Others Present:** J. Adams, M. Alger, R. Anderson, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, J. Budinger, S. Burt, D. Decker, J. Fuller, B. Gamache, L. Gooch-Christman, K. Graves, G. Hanchett, M. Hennessy, R. Hollis, T. Hull, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, N. Ungermann, J. Wood

**Media Present:** No media present

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:18 p.m. by Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charles Jessup.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to approve the Ways & Means Committee minutes of January 12, 2015.

**Presentation by ACCORD Corporation Re: Grant Applications for Housing Rehab Projects & Services**

Lesley Gooch-Christman, Executive Director of ACCORD, and Bryan Gamache, Business & Community Development Director for ACCORD gave a brief presentation on pending grant applications for housing rehabilitation projects and services.

Ms. Gooch-Christman began by saying she was in attendance to update the Committee members where ACCORD is in regard to housing programs and applications, as well as to give the Committee a sense of ACCORD's three- year plan, based on a needs assessment of housing in Allegany County and what ACCORD hopes to do with the application process. She also wanted to say a bit about how ACCORD is working with Cattaraugus Community Action terms of more efficient use of those resources. She then turned the floor over to Mr. Gamache.

Mr. Gamache noted that ACCORD is currently pursuing three grants:

*NYS Homes and Community Renewal Restore Grant*—this is a \$50,000 grant which helps the elderly with home repair at no cost to the homeowner...e.g., a broken furnace would be repaired under this grant's guidelines. The maximum amount allowed per project is \$5,000, so 10-15 County residents could be served.

*Access to Home* is a \$150,000 grant aimed at helping those who become disabled to stay in their homes rather than enter an institution. This would include the construction of ramps, doors, stair lifts, accessible showers, etc. At a maximum amount of \$11,250 per project, 10-20 people could be served in AllegAny County.

*Affordable Home and Ownership Development Grant* is a \$750,000 two-year grant with a maximum of \$35,000 per project. Mr. Gamache projects an average cost of about \$15,000 per project, which would allow 40-50 people in the County to be served. ACCORD hopes to combine this with current grants such as CBDG (Community Development Block Grants ) and have been asked by NYS to take over town of Belfast CBDG.

Overall, ACCORD is currently focusing solely on rehab and repair at this point, he said.

Following the presentation, the Committee agreed to write a letter of support for ACCORD on a motion by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **Refer to Chairman Crandall**

**Community Development Block Grant Funding Opportunity**

County Administrator Mitch Alger, County Treasurer Terri Ross, and Assistant to the County Administrator Jodi Adams met with Jodi Fuller, Chief Operating Officer of Planning & Development and other staff from Cattaraugus Community Action Agency at their request to discuss a Community Development Block Grant funding opportunity. As required by the funder, the County would be the grantee and Cattaraugus Community Action would write and administer the grant. This set up is similar to past experience (snowmobile federation grant). Cattaraugus Community Action is requesting \$750,000 from the state to replace seven-eight mobile homes in Allegany County targeting the most vulnerable populations (elderly, disabled, veterans). Outcomes include elimination of blight and improved health and safety living standards. Referrals would come from Office for the Aging, the Department of Social Services, Veterans' Services, and ACCORD Corporation. ACCORD is not applying for the grant and supports the effort. This funding stream seems like a good fit for the County. The grant will require minimal work for County employees initially (document review, signatures, letters of support, public hearing) but doesn't require match funding. The grant submission deadline is February 27, 2015.

Ms. Fuller attended the Ways & Means meeting to seek authorization to apply for the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) 2015 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) in partnership with Cattaraugus Community Action Agency. As required by the funder, the County will serve as the grantee and Cattaraugus Community Action Agency will write and administer the grant.

If funded, the grant will serve eight – ten low-income residents of Allegany County currently living in owner-occupied dilapidated manufactured homes. The grant addresses health and safety issues by ensuring properties meet Housing Quality Standards (HQS) by replacing dilapidated housing with new Energy Star-rated single-wide manufactured homes. Septic and well systems are addressed also. With \$750,000 in state funding, seven – eight mobile homes will be replaced, targeting the most vulnerable populations (elderly, disabled, Veterans). As noted above, referrals will come from OFA, DSS, Veterans' Services, and from ACCORD Corporation. Costs to the service recipients are limited to payment of the taxes associated with the new manufactured home; estimated at approximately \$2,000. Cattaraugus Community Action is located in Salamanca, but has a history of serving Allegany County residents with Weatherization services. The agency has successfully operated a similar mobile home replacement program in Cattaraugus County. In preparation for this project, CCA staff has reached out to the ACCORD Corporation, who is supporting this proposal.

The total amount of the grant is \$750,000, and there is no local county share.

Approval to pursue this grant funding was given on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Subsequent to the approval, a motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried, to set a public hearing for February 9, 2015. **Prepare Resolution**

**Executive Session**

County Treasurer Terri Ross requested an executive session to discuss the financial history of several companies within in the County. The Committee entered executive session at 3:35 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. The Committee exited executive session at 3:59 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

**New Business**

### **Completion of Route I-86**

The Committee members had been provided with a letter from the Chemung County Legislature requesting Allegany County's support and adoption of a resolution urging Governor Cuomo and the New York State legislature to advance funding and expedite completion of the Interstate 86 projects in Broome, Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange counties. Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to support the completion of Route I-86 via a resolution on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators