

**Minutes  
Throop Borough Council  
Public Hearing  
Regarding the HOME Program Grant Application  
with Dr. Marvin Brotter  
Monday, February 26,2001  
6:55 p.m.**

**The hearing opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members Of Council:**

Joseph Barone-P

James Barnick-P

Anthony Chrzan-P

**President** - Thomas Lukasewicz-P

Robert Mraz-P

**Vice President** - George Marushock-P

Joseph Keyasko-P

**Mayor** - Stanley Lukowski-P

**Solicitor** - Attorney Louis Cimini-P

**Controller** - Daryl Menichetti-A

**Treasurer** - Lenore Dolan-P

**Administrator/Secretary** - Elaine Morrell-P

**HOME Program Grant Application - Dr. Marvin Brotter:**

Good evening, everybody. I'd like to tell you that this public hearing tonight was advertised properly so that the public was notified.

What we're really proposing to do is a program similar to the program that we are currently in the middle of implementing right now. One of the full responsibilities, we've got, we still have 92 people on the waiting list, people who've not been able to be helped with our program. So we're going back in to try to get more money and hopefully we'll be able to get enough money to do about 15 more housing units. We've also increased not the national amount of the grant, the national amount of the grant is still \$25,000 as was established under the old program but we figured the average to be somewhat higher because there are new laws now that require more work to be done. Increased the average grants to about \$22,500 where it was about \$18,500 previously. As a result it's over \$300,000. To accomplish this with about 15 homes including about 10 that would get 100% grants and 5 that would get 75% grants. The difference between the 75% grants and 100% grants is, to those of you who got a copy of this agenda that I distributed at the beginning of the meeting, is a list of the income eligibility on the last page and it distinguishes between 70% of median income and low-moderate income. So the people at the 75% median income, they would get the 100% grants low-moderate income and higher would get the 75% grants. And the way that's set up is if you stay in the property for the full five years you retain the grant and don't have to give any part of it back. If for example you sell your home in the three years, then you keep 60%.

If there is an award to be done it has to be worked at the, you can't do partial work on the home, you have to bring all their proposed standards. If you start, you have to finish it.

And there's some supplemental funds available for lower income people who would qualify for funds from the Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency for weatherization types of improvements. So on top of the basic grant you can also get from the lower income applicants the supplemental work to be done by the Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency. We propose to submit this application to the state sometime in the early month of March as soon as we get some of the letters together that we need and so on. We have gotten letters from the Planning, we've gotten letters from the area interested agents, Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency, and so on. We need letters from the Planning Commission or from civic groups and so on to go with along with it and some information from the County Redevelopment Authority.

A couple of the questions that I think need to be addressed, first place, council has a resolution in their hands for consideration for recommending which will follow the public hearing which will authorize the filing of the application. Some decisions that will have to be made by council as far as 1.) whether or not we stay with the 92 people on the waiting list and work our way through that list, 2.) last time we had set up so that they did priority to the people who had emergencies. As a result, everybody said they had emergencies even though not everybody really had an emergency. I'm sure it resulted in the waste of a lot of program money which we had to go out and check out everybody's home to see if in fact they really had an emergency. So, I suggest that we go through that list now. If it is in fact an emergency (inaudible).

Lukasewicz-That's your suggestion?

Brotter-That's my suggestion but it's your call.

Lukasewicz-Does everyone understand that?

Dominick Rocco-Do you have any more copies of that?

Brotter-No, I came, I had fifteen copies, I've handed them all out. I guess, Elaine, you can make more copies to distribute.

Morrell-I don't have one.

Brotter-You're going to have it when we're done, to use it in the minutes.

Lukasewicz-Marv, and also council should decide if we wanted to go the same way with it that we had, by lottery, or do it a different way?

Both spoke at once.

Brotter-It's a new listing, you could go through lottery again or we could do first come first serve. My only concern is, I would suggest again, you stay with the list of people those people who are on the list and said well, gee, we were just a little bit further on down the list so they don't get caught into the next round and if you turn that upside down then everybody's going to start all over from scratch again and I think a lot of people will be very upset about it.

Lukasewicz-Was there any preliminary ground work done to see if some of those people on the list decided to when they got the grant were actually eligible.

Brotter-No, you can't, because that's part of the process of notice, what happens is as we go along (inaudible) and eligibility, then if we determine they're eligible, we go out and start the property. So we don't want to get them started at that point if we (inaudible) so we do it in stages. So we do it in stages, we do usually 5 or 6 property owners at a time for the 10 or 12 and then depending on how much money is left in the pot, then we (inaudible) two, three, four, more.

Rocco-Continue on with the list, why change it now?

Lukasewicz-That will be a decision for council to make, really.

Everyone spoke at once.

Barnick-That's exactly what I was going to say. I think you should continue on with the list and put emergencies on top. I mean a lot of that list maybe they had their repairs and everything else and we'll emergencies, they should be dealt with first I would think.

Unknown-Well, that's your opinion.

Barnick-I mean, that's my opinion.

Brotter-At this point, we've got the, well the other thing that's part of is, the very low income people get priority over little income people. That again is part of the competitive process if nothing else.

Inaudible.

Brotter-That's it, I'm going to fold up. Does council have any other questions for me before I open it up to questions from the audience? Anybody in the audience have any questioning about the program?

Lukasewicz-Any questions in regards to the Home Program of the audience?

How about if you have a real emergency?

Morrell-Excuse me, state your.....

Everybody spoke at once.

Morrell-We need your name for the record.

Lukasewicz-Excuse me, name and address of whoever speaks.

#### **Audience comments:**

John Sholcosky, 146 Brick Street, lower Throop- I were to report it, they came up took pictures, snapshots....

Brotter-Well, they do.

Sholcosky-Yeah, they said everything, you know they told me it's, yeah, the whole tank, everything's done right.

Morrell-He did not file an application, he was bringing pictures up this week.

Everyone spoke at once.

Morrell-I did not realize you had an application on file.

Sholcosky-I'm #64 on the application of last year. This year I had an emergency and they already were there and they photographed everything and the man came in and he says, he said its everything that I claimed to be an emergency is correct even a little more. So how long would, how long is that there?

Brotter-I can't answer that question right now. If you want to, call the office tomorrow, Gloria's there, Gloria really manages the listing.

Unknown-See on the man came to bid all that, does he still to have to fill an application here and tonight to go through with this?

Brotter-We have to have an application on file.

Sholcosky-I do, I'm #64 on.

Brotter-Fine. Any other questions out there? Anyone else have a question?

Nancy Federovitch, 199 Copperrick Street-My question is the monies that the grants list, can it be applied to handicapped ramps or.....

Brotter-Yes it can.

Federovitch-Okay.

Brotter-Improvements to make the property more handicapped usable and accessible are eligible expenses. Anybody else?

Tape inaudible.

Morrell-I had an individual stop today and wanted to know if this involves low interest loans at all.

Brotter-Okay, good question. If the low interest grant is under \$25,000 and if they're in the right income bracket, they can get the whole grant without a loan. If they're in that category of the lower income, I'm sorry, of the higher income where they only get a 75% grant and in fact then they have to come up with 25% of the cost on their own? We have (inaudible) with the bank, through the Borough of course, the bank will consider credit through them and we will also buy down the interest rate for them and (inaudible) down to 3% (inaudible). And that's a part of the project grant budget so basically it's a grant program (inaudible).

Morrell-Another question I have is that the individuals who may have handicapped accessibility questions or would want to apply for that, where do they fall as far as low to moderate income?

Brotter-There's no priority given for that the way the program's set up now.

Morrell-So they, if they need to apply for a handicapped accessibility or whatever, how....

Brotter-They can't apply just for that. That can only be done as part of the (inaudible). They can't apply just for improvements for handicapped accessibility.

Joe Roque, 531 Edgar Street-When two people are disabled under one roof.....

Inaudible.

Brotter-Your question was?

Roque-My sister-in-law and my brother-in-law is handicapped, the two of them, they're disabled. How would they go on as far as this funding goes?

Brotter-That does not affect their standing on the list.

Roque-No?

Brotter-It just says that if their name comes up on the list that, that those improvements are needed to address the handicapped situation are eligible expenses. Anybody else?

Lukasewicz-Marv, (inaudible) motion to adjourn the public hearing?

Chrzan-I'll make it.

Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To adjourn the public hearing.

Hearing adjourned.

Elaine Morrell  
Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by Christina Sullivan