



**Roxann Wedegartner**  
Mayor

City of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS**

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1548 • [www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://www.greenfield-ma.gov)

**Members:**

Lynne Kelley – Chair  
Margo Campbell  
Virginia DeSorgher  
Cynthia Dodge  
Douglas Mayo

**Mintues for  
CDBG Public Hearing**

**April 15, 2020 - 10:00 a.m**  
**Via WebEx remote access (video and phone)**

Attendees:

MJ Adams, Director of Community and Economic Development  
Robin Fordham, Grant Program Assistant  
Lindsay Rowe, Community Development Administrator  
Amy Clark, Interfaith Council, Franklin County Housing Assistance Committee/resident of Greenfield

At 10:06 a.m. MJ Adams called the hearing to order via remote WebEx with people being able to engage von the phone or computer. Noted that if new people enter online meeting, we will pause to allow people to identify themselves.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support services to the homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City is requesting the reallocation of \$20,500.00 of Housing-Other (4D) funds from CDBG FY18 for a COVID-19 activity, the upgrades to the Wells Street shelter. This may include but may not be limited to installation of health and safety protection systems for expanded shelter services.

Roll Call: MJ Adams, Robin Fordham, Lindsay Rowe, Amy Clark from the Interfaith Council Housing Assistance program.

This meeting is being recorded and was published in the Record's Legal Ads on April 8, 2020 and posted on the City's website and with the City Clerk's Office.

MJ Adams - Updates on Homeless Population Changes  
As people know, the City has had a 20-bed shelter run by ServiceNet. We were able to open a warming Shelter to provide overflow of up to 30 guests from the Fall of 20219 to April 2020. We worked with shelter service provider to see how people could protect themselves from illness - distancing, sanitizer, etc. The closure of spaces and services that traditionally serve the homeless presented challenges to the daytime needs of the homeless. The City explored the Armory, however that building had environmental challenges that prevented it from being a

feasible space for day or overnight shelter space. Federal Street School's cafeteria was explored; however at that time the State seemed to be forming a plan to help. As things progressed, it became clearer that a plan from the state was not forthcoming, and communities needed to work locally with service providers to address needs. ServiceNet was able to get tents from MEMA for outside the Wells Street shelter. Then the property owner of the Wells Street Shelter building became open to using the second floor for occupancy. The building inspector and fire inspector were working on tent permits and realized that the second floor was a more feasible space with minor repairs to bathroom/carpets/fire alarm system/etc. That space opened last week.

This allowed for space for healthy individuals and sick quarantine space.

The purpose of this hearing is to request the funding to complete the upgrades to the shelter space for a temporary certificate of occupancy ONLY for the duration of this emergency. We've limited the number of guests to 20. The number of guests prior to the emergency was 20 at the shelter and 16-20 at the warming site. The number of people needing services has dropped.

There is availability of showers at the first floor of Wells St. and at other locations in the City. There are port-a-potties available on site. There is one MEMA tent at the site, should it be needed. The major limiting factor currently is staffing from ServiceNet. The funding request is for stated repairs, rent, and utilities. There is no request for funding for staffing, as that is available from other sources.

Amy Clarke - Two concerns, where did the other 30 people go who were at the warming shelter? Where is the money left over from the warming shelter? Even with 2 staff at minimum wage, how does that make the \$150,000 allocation? It strikes me that there should be a huge chunk of that \$150,000 left.

MJ – Regarding \$150k in funding for warming center, ServiceNet presented a budget and was given the budget it requested for the Warming Center.

Amy Clarke - I'm dismayed that we've spent all this money and now \$20,000 more without a long-term option. I support doing what we need to get through this year. But, how do we move through this with all this money spent?

MJ - The City's position has been to focus on long-term solutions and how do we provide the next level of housing options. Initially the shelter beds were seen as a 4-6 week solution to address pandemic, however we're realizing that the timeline is going to be lengthened. The \$10,000 was an investment in local public health.

Amy - Is the quarantine space 24-hours?

MJ - ServiceNet has been able to provide some 24 hour staffing in inclement weather.

Amy - where are the warming center people?

MJ - we suspect they are outdoors again. Some of the people at the warming center had been unable to be safe guests at the shelter. This is the difficult balance.

MJ - The Fire Chief and Mayor have been great to work with through this. In Northampton, they opened a shelter in the High School. Greenfield's history of shelters has led us down this path, so that when this is over the shelter population remains connected to the services they need.

MJ - If a homeless person is presenting symptoms or is testing positive, the State has set up hotel spaces for them to isolate. There is understanding that they will arrange transportation to Lexington/Pittsfield/ and one other location.

MJ - Any additional questions, comments, or concerns.

Amy Clark - I support this funding.

Lindsay Rowe - This makes sense and we should fund this.

Robin - Agreed.

MJ - 10:31 a.m. - Closing the hearing and any additional comments can be sent to [Lindsay.Rowe@greenfield-ma.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Rowe@greenfield-ma.gov) by close of business.

