

News Articles FY 2018

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LOCAL

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Solar deal will save \$100

By Jeff Malachowski
Daily News Staff

MARLBOROUGH - The city's Community Development Authority saved slightly more than \$100,000 in the first year of a 20-year solar net metering agreement that officials say could net a total savings of \$2.4 million. The Community Development

Authority board in 2016 approved a long-term net metering deal with solar developer Blue Wave Capital - which has developed and built more than 100 megawatts of solar projects delivering more than \$275 million in estimated lifetime savings to customers. The company - along with Paul Knowlton of Knowlton Farm - built a solar farm on Estabrook

Road in Grafton.

Net metering is a system in which solar panels are connected to a public utility grid and surplus power is transferred onto the grid, allowing the entity to offset the cost of power drawn from the utility. The city will pay about 10 cents per kilowatt-hour - a rate that will not rise during the 20-year agreement.

The city will also receive a \$60,000 co-development fee paid over six years and an annual \$10,000 asset management fee that escalates at 2 percent each year.

"It's a phenomenal program," said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director. The savings have allowed the Community Development

Authority - which Bus oversees - to conduct maintenance and infrastructure projects and increase staff time on issues at the authority's properties - the Pleasant and Bolton street apartment. The department has ref windows in the waiting

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at the Main Street apartments, purchased additional maintenance equipment and

additional landscaping, said Bushman.

"We've been able to turn that savings back to the tenants," said Bushman. "It's had a big impact. It's helped our bottom line and helped our tenants."

Public housing authorities

in Westborough, Lowell, Webster and Tyngsborough are also receiving electricity savings from the Grafton solar farm.

The project will increase Marlborough's reliance on solar energy.

"It's helping us produce not

only environmentally save energy, but it's local," said Bushman.

Jeff Malachowski can be reached at 508-746-7466 or jmalachowski@wickedlocal.com. Follow him on Twitter @jmalachowskiMW.

Officials finalizing CDBG grant

By Jeff Malachowski
Daily News Staff

MARLBOROUGH - The city's request for \$800,000 in Community Development Block Grant money to reconstruct two city streets and conduct other projects will soon be in the state's hands.

Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director, told the Community Development Authority Board Thursday officials from Community Opportunities Group Inc. - the city's grant consultant - are putting the finishing touches on Marlborough's application, which will be sent to the state early next week. The deadline for communities to submit an application is March 2.

"We've been meeting our deadlines," he said.

Bushman is hopeful the third time will be the charm. Marlborough came up short in 2016 and 2017.

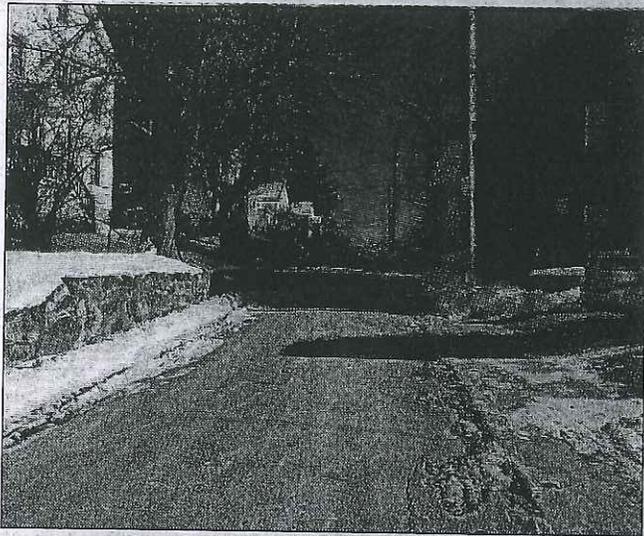
"We've had a lot of experience working on this," said Bushman.

Grant awards are expected to be announced this summer. Reconstructing Devens and McEnelly streets downtown is a top priority. That project would include repaving both roads - which are off Washington Street - replacing sidewalks and drainage, adding granite curbing and installing Americans with Disabilities Act compliant wheelchair ramps. Lead water service lines will also be replaced.

Pavement and sidewalk work was last done on the two streets 25 years ago.

The road reconstruction would be funded with a combination of grant money - about \$300,000 - and city funds. The total cost of the project is still being determined.

Marlborough's application calls for using \$42,000 for an anti-opioid program, titled



City officials plan to reconstruct McEnelly and Devens streets if awarded CDBG money. [DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTOS]



City officials plan to reconstruct McEnelly and Devens streets if awarded CDBG funds.

run out of the Pleasant Street Boys and Girls Clubhouse and help troubled youths ages 10-17 improve decision-making and critical thinking skills and teach them to avoid drug and alcohol abuse.

The city would also use about \$44,000 for a part-time rehab counselor as part of that initiative.

The application also includes \$254,000 to provide loans to homeowners for housing rehabilitation projects that will fix safety hazards and conduct emergency repairs. Between six and eight homeowners will be able to upgrade their houses with the money.

About \$160,000 in poten-

and needs.

The Community Development Block Grant program - instituted in 1974 - provides money to cities and towns to ensure decent affordable housing, services to the needy and create jobs. The program has awarded more than \$237 million to Massachusetts communities since 2007.

Marlborough has received \$171,038 for housing rehab projects, \$633,082 for public facilities and \$95,880 for administrative needs through the program the past decade.

Jeff Malachowski can be reached at 508-490-7466 or jmalachowski@wickedlocal.com. Fol-

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January 20, 2018

Legal Notice

City of Marlborough - Notice of Public Hearing

The Marlborough Community Development Authority (MCDA) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. on behalf of the City of Marlborough. The hearing's purpose is to discuss a proposed application to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and to discuss local community development and housing needs and issues. Under a proposed FY 2018 Community Development Fund grant, the following activities are being considered for funding and inclusion in the application: housing rehabilitation assistance to income-qualifying homeowners; (re)construction of streets, sidewalks, and associated infrastructure; public social services funding; and/or other activities not yet identified. The grant application may include any of these activities, as well as additional ones.

The public hearing will also include a review of the City's Community Development Strategy (CDS), a discussion of unmet housing and community development needs, its efforts to promote and expand affordable housing, as well as housing of various types that will be suitable to a range of incomes and household types. The CDS cites possible actions to address a range of identified community development needs.

The hearing will be held in Memorial Hall 3rd Floor, Marlborough City Hall, 140 Main Street, Marlborough, MA. Any person or organization so wishing will be afforded an opportunity to be heard. Suggestions for other activities may be made at the hearing or in writing to the MCDA before the hearing. The City encourages a broad spectrum of participation by residents and other interested parties to better understand and serve the needs of the community. The hearing location is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. If you require a translator, an accommodation for a hearing impairment or other accommodation, contact the MCDA no later than Friday, January 26, 2018 by calling 508.624.6908, ext. 40101, or via email at dbushman@marlborough-ma.gov.

Douglas M. Bushman, Executive Director
Marlborough Community Development Authority

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Public Notices

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Marlborough Community Development Authority