

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mark Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Barbara Spencer, Todd Kirsten and Danelle Del Corso. Staff present were Susan Steele, Township Manager; Amy Smith Township Clerk; Trish Meek, CRPA and Erica Ehley, CRPA. Residents & others in attendance: Dr. Michelle Halsell.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

Township Business

4. **MINUTES**

- ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 14th, 2016; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

5. **RECOGNITION OF DON HOUTZ CONTRIBUTION OF SIX MONTHS FREE RENTAL OF STORAGE UNIT FOR TOWNSHIP'S USE DURING MOLD REMEDIATION PROJECT AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING (GOOD CITIZEN AWARD)**

Mr. Stevenson stated Mr. Houtz owns the storage units off of Granny Lane and has offered to provide the Township six months of free storage unit rental for use during the mold remediation project at the Municipal Building. Mr. Stevenson thanked Mr. Houtz for his generosity on behalf of the Township.

6. **POSSIBLE APPROVAL TO USE PSU SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST IN PARK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Ms. Steele stated she had spoken to the PSU Sustainability Department to assist in the programming part of the park plan. PSU would assist the Township by conducting an online survey to elicit what citizens want as far as Parks programming. Ms. Steele showed the tentative timeline for the PSU part of the project as well as overall Park Implementation Project Plan. Dr. Halsell stated she would be using Tim Kelsey who is in charge of the Community Environmental Department. Dr. Halsell explained that Mr. Kelsey would make this project part of this fall's class curriculum.

Ms. Steele commented that there would be a higher priority for grants if we used outside partner sources as well as PSU could research online or other platforms which would elicit citizen wishes as to programming in the parks.

Dr. Halsell questioned if anyone attended the PSU sustainability display exhibits. Ms. Spencer, Mr. Stevenson, Ms. Steele and Ms. Del Corso raised their hands. Ms. Spencer stated she learned information about farm pasteurizing practices. Mr. Stevenson stated he was interested in the recycling exhibits. Ms. Del Corso stated the work PSU conducted on employee engagement was exhibited.

Dr. Halsell stated PSU will be working with the manager to ascertain the needs and then will work it into the Dr. Kelsey's fall curriculum. Mr. Kelsey will have 4-5 students working on drafting questions and how they can distribute the information. Dr. Halsell explained that they may want to do some face to face meetings and provide a report.

Dr. Halsell stated she and Ms. Steele discussed the possibility of also doing a rain garden demonstration. Dr. Halsell stated the students design and install the garden. This could be done at either park.

Ms. Steele stated she and Dr. Halsell also discussed finding citizens in the community to spearhead programs in the parks such as Zumba, pole vaulting, etc.

Secretary

Ms. Spencer questioned if PSU could assist in implementing any of the programs derived from the citizen surveys. Ms. Halsell stated, yes, PSU could assist further. The project could be conducted within the same curriculum or moved to another class, but either way would be conducted another semester as students leave at the end of each term.

Mr. Stevenson questioned whether there were any costs. Dr. Halsell stated this is done as part of the engaged scholarship initiative so they do not want to add expenses to those costs for the students. Dr. Halsell commented there could be printing costs, van rental costs, refreshment costs, etc. associated but the Township would need to defray those costs. Ms. Steele stated Ms. Halsell told her those costs usually are no more than \$1,200.00.

Mr. Stevenson commented that if it helps with DCNR and DCED applications it is a small expense.

Ms. Spencer stated she is really excited to work with PSU and thrilled to see the university working within the community.

Dr. Halsell commented they have been trying to focus on better ways to connect to community partners.

Mr. Stevenson stated the Board has discussed nutrient credit management and sees a potential in working with PSU to help farmers implement best practices to earn nutrient credits.

Mr. Stevenson questioned how long the sustainability communities collaborative has been in place. Dr. Halsell stated for about six semesters.

Dr. Halsell commented the program is investing in the students learning, growth and development.

Mr. Stevenson stated that the Way Fruit Farm Fall Festival might be a way to tap into citizens.

Ms. Del Corso commented she has worked with the PSU Sustainability Department and found it to be a fabulous experience.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Kirsten moved to approve utilizing PSU Sustainability Department to assist in Park Plan implementation, timeline and possible costs; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

7. PRESENTATION ON PARK PLAN FUNDING

Ms. Steele provided and reviewed a power point as to possible Park Plan funding which is attached.

Mr. Stevenson commented that that it was a worthwhile and positive meeting with the DCNR/DCED.

Ms. Spencer questioned why staff could not start this process now. Ms. Steele stated the pre-grant materials are not completed as noted on the powerpoint.

There was discussion on where the letters of support should come from. Ms. Meek stated anywhere you can get a letter of support would be beneficial. Ms. Spencer suggested requesting letters from Representative Rich Irvin, Representative Jake Corman and Congressman Glenn Thompson.

Ms. Meek stated the only way to speed up construction would be to apply for a DCED grant in June stating we would apply for the DCNR grant later. But this means more Township matching funds.

Mr. Stevenson questioned whether the County would write a letter. Ms. Meek stated they would.

Ms. Spencer suggested getting letters from both COG's.

Mr. Stevenson stated he felt they needed another meeting to devote more time to delegating responsibilities and asked the manager to set up a future work session. Ms. Steele said she would and ask Mr. Mears to attend. Mr. Stevenson would also like to look for other partners and letters of support.

Secretary

- **MOTION:** *Ms. Del Corso moved to take the recommendation of staff and move forward with Autumn Meadow Park for possible grant funding; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

Mr. Stevenson stated the reason why they are not completing Municipal Lane Park first is the expense of paving and building tear down is more difficult.

Ms. Meek stated DCNR is excited about this project. Ms. Steele commented that DCED is as well.

Ms. Steele stated she would discuss with the Park & Recreation Board their applying for possible playground grants.

The Board requested a special workshop to discuss this further and have Mr. Mears from JMT in attendance. Ms. Spencer requested the workshop sometime in August.

Ms. Steele commented that Ms. Meek has been invaluable.

8. **FOLLOW-UP TO SUPERVISOR TODD KIRSTEN INQUIRY OF 4/14/2016 AS TO THE MAKE-UP OF APPROXIMATELY \$90,000 DEPOSIT INTO GENERAL CHECKING IN FEBRUARY, 2016 (\$79,570.53 EIT/LST AND \$10,709.61 IN MISC. RECEIPTS)**

Ms. Steele questioned whether there were any other comments.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Steele reviewed her report.

Ms. Steele stated the Planning Commission approved the densities and uses of each zoning district be brought to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Steele stated the plan was for the Township Solicitor, Local Planner and Zoning Officer to discuss these topics with the Board of Supervisors at the May 12 meeting.

Ms. Steele commented she will be discussing with the Park & Recreation Board at their May 5th meeting their willingness to speak with the Centre Bulldogs about contributing to the Autumn Meadow bleacher project and researching and applying for Park Equipment grants to be used in conjunction with DCED/DCNR grant applications.

Ms. Steele stated she placed in Dropbox under tonight's meeting the spreadsheet figures with the elements wanted by Supervisors Kristen, Del Corso and Stevenson as to Township offices/municipal building expenses.

Ms. Steele asked the supervisors if they received the letter she forwarded them from a resident on April 18 who is an electrician. In that email he provided information about possible code updates that may need to be made during the re-build after the remediation as well as Ms. Steele provided the supervisors a project plan to put it into context. Ms. Spencer stated until the Board sees what is left she has no comment.

There was discussion on what types of props should be used to determine and keep record of public comments during the citizen introductory meeting to discuss the density, tentative zones and uses for re-zoning. Some suggestions included: large white board, pre-printed cards, colored map dots, etc. Ms. Del Corso suggested having a run through prior to the meeting. Mr. Stevenson would like at a target rate of July 12th for the citizen introductory meeting.

Regional Business

1. **DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN FIBER OPTIC STUDY WITH CENTRE REGION COG, CATA, UAJA, STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH AND THE TOWNSHIPS OF HARRIS, COLLEGE, HALFMOON, FERGUSON AND PATTON**

Mr. Stevenson stated he felt this was a request to ascertain if Halfmoon Township was interested in participating in the study. Mr. Stevenson would like to see costs for both locations (Municipal Lane & Brother Pizza Office) to hook into fiber optic. Mr. Stevenson commented he does not want to limit potential funding partners.

Secretary

Mr. Stevenson suggested that COG staff suggest 3-4 other places for collaborative partnership to fund the study before providing costs of the study. These could be the CBICC, School District, Hospital, etc.

Mr. Stevenson stated he is expressing interest in the study, not the cost provided prior to any research on collaborative partnerships.

- **MOTION:** Ms. Spencer moved to express interest in the study provided they try to recruit partners prior to any discussion at the Finance Committee; Ms. Del Corso seconded; Mr. Kirsten questioned why the study is being investigated other than the hook up fee; Ms. Del Corso commented she would like to ask for clarification as to what is being studied and see a statement of purpose and what the deliverable is and would like to make that amendment; Ms. Spencer moved to amend the motion; Ms. Del Corso seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

2. PROPOSAL TO SET A GUIDELINE(S) FOR PREPARING THE 2017 COG BUDGET PROGRAM PLAN

Ms. Steele stated Mr. Kirsten had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda this time. But in the interim Jim Steff sent information, she placed in Dropbox and emailed to each supervisor. Mr. Steff stated he was asked to put this together. Ms. Steele asked if this was the same information Mr. Kirsten asked to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Kirsten stated it was just ancillary information. Mr. Kirsten then when on to explain that the Finance Committee wanted its members to take back to their individual boards their suggestions as to a general increase in total municipal guidelines. Mr. Kirsten explained the Finance Committee has been using the 3% cap since it was implemented in 2014. The Finance Committee members are relatively comfortable with this 3%, but wanted to bring it back. Mr. Stevenson stated he would love to see it come under 3%. He would like to see it around 2% as this is the organic growth rate of the Township. Or would want it more like a 2% or 2.25% increase cap. But that's just his opinion. Mr. Kirsten stated he reviewed the COG budget today. Overall the budget increased 2.46% from 2015 to 2016. Halfmoon's increased 10.2%. This was essentially due to planning and the library. Mr. Kirsten explained personnel is about 78% of the planning department budget so once you are talking about cost of living adjustments, health, pension, then you are immediately blowing 2% out of the water. That's why the Finance Committee is pretty comfortable with the 3%. But, he will take the consensus of the supervisors back to the Finance Committee. Ms. Steele stated what Jim Steff was showing in salary increases was around a .07% to .08% cost of living adjustment, then merit, for a total of 2% compensation. Mr. Stevenson commented it is, unless you do some hard work by lowering health care and other costs. For instance, he noticed the library is not increasing their capital budget over last year. Therefore, he would suggest the Finance Committee hold the library capitals as to what the municipalities paid last year. Mr. Kirsten understood and agreed and keeping it at a 0% increase was what everyone would like. He just doesn't necessarily know if putting a 2% cap is too much constraint on agency directors. Adding, he knows the agency directors got the message last year to stick to 3%. He's been to COG speaking with the Finance Director as well as in the Planning Department and things are run pretty tightly there. He would be agreeable to Halfmoon stating that they should not exceed last year's increase and taking that to the Finance Committee. Ms. Steele stated one of the citizens asked her instead of just talking about percentage as to what 2% means, they would like that put into a dollar figure. For example, when she states the Township budget will increase 3%, she also puts this in a dollar amount. Ms. Steele suggested that maybe the total amount be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Stevenson stated he liked that idea, just doesn't know how to package it to send to COG. Mr. Stevenson asked that we not only adopt that 2.46% but monetize that amount. Ms. Steele stated she thought that is what the citizens wanted—to put in a dollar amount. Mr. Kirsten stated he had the COG budget in his car and could get it and could give that dollar amount before the next meeting.

3. DISCUSSION ON TOWNSHIP HEALTH, VISION, AND DENTAL INSURANCE (CONTINUED MANAGER REPORT AS NO. 9 UNDER TOWNSHIP BUSINESS)

While Mr. Kirsten went out to get COG budget, Ms. Steele informed the supervisors that for the first time Geisinger was offering a discount bundle for health, dental and vision. This bundle would save \$50 a month per employee and therefore had changed the Township's employees dental and vision insurance effective June 1. Mr. Stevenson informed Mr. Kirsten on this change when he returned, adding the Township was getting more for less.

4. DISCUSSION ON CATA 2016-2017 SHARES

Secretary

- **MOTION:** Ms. Spencer moved to approve Halfmoon CATA shares for 2016-2017; Ms. Del Corso seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

Mr. Stevenson asked where this was on the agenda. Ms. Spencer said number three. Ms. Steele stated she would inform CATA of the motion as that's what the instructions were.

5. POSSIBLE MOTION TO COMMENT ON COG PRIORITIES AS DIRECTED BY GENERAL FORUM

There were no further comments provided other than to forward the original comments to the proper committees to be implemented in the program plan and budget. (Also discussed a bit after Continued Discussion on Proposal to set Guidelines below).

6. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON PROPOSAL TO SET A GUIDELINE(S) FOR PREPARING THE 2017 COG BUDGET PROGRAM PLAN (CONTINUED FROM NO. 2 UNDER REGIONAL BUSINESS)

Mr. Stevenson stated the supervisors still needed to vote on Mr. Kirsten's proposed compromise consensus. Ms. Steele asked if that proposal was not to exceed a 2.46% overall increase.

- **MOTION:** Mr. Kirsten moved that he will bring that to the Finance Committee for total contributions as Halfmoon Township's suggestion for COG's total municipal contribution. Ms. Del Corso seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion carried.

Mr. Kirsten then added 2.46% is equivalent to \$155,835. Ms. Smith asked him to repeat the number. Mr. Kirsten replied \$155,835. Mr. Stevenson asked if that is based on the overall COG budget? Mr. Kirsten stated it is based on the 2016 total municipal shares. Ms. Steele asked if it's just based on municipal shares not total COG budget. Mr. Kirsten and Mr. Stevenson replied to the affirmative.

7. SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Human Resources – Mr. Kirsten requested Ms. Del Corso let him know what the process is when there is a vacant position at Centre Region COG.

CCMPO Coordinating Committee – Ms. Spencer stated there was a presentation by Seda-COG on rails in the area.

Spring Creek Watershed Commission – Mr. Stevenson stated there was a presentation about PSU producing a climate control change report. Mr. Stevenson stated what it boiled down to was how climate warming is affecting the area and what it will mean to different areas such as farming, streams, etc.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

- **MOTION:** Ms. Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

TOWNSHIP PARK CONCEPT FUNDING PLAN

PRESENTED TO HALFMOON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

4/28/16

PARK PLANS

- ▶ Park Plan approved in 8/15 for Autumn Meadow and Municipal Park
- ▶ Implementing Park Plan FY 2016 Priority
- ▶ Discussion of funding options underway
 - ▶ Meeting with DCNR and DCED on 4/1/16

DCED/DCNR 4/1/16 DISCUSSION

Team Members Present:

- Wes Fahringer - DCNR Central Rep
- Ryan Emerson - DCED (telephonically)
- Andy Mears – Consultant and Project Manager (telephonically)
- Don Franson - Township Engineer - Roads and Stormwater
- Erica Ehly - Local Planner
- Trish Meek - CCMPPO Transportation Planner
- Mark Stevenson - BOS, Chairman and BOS Liaison
- Susan Steele - Manager and Facilitator

BOTH DCED AND DCNR SAID

- ▶ Makes no difference in ability to obtain future monies if Township does one park or both parks together in one grant

Item	DCNR	DCED
Annual Application Deadline	April	June
Funding Cap	No limit (\$250,000 reasonable)	\$250,000
Funding Match	50% - can use other agency funds and outside partnerships as part of match	15%
Timeframe to expend funds	4 years	2 years
Payments Processed	6 - 8 weeks	30 - 45 days

BOTH DCED AND DCNR SAID (CONT.)

- ▶ Prefer completing one park and not doing pieces of two parks (e.g. trails at both parks first)
- ▶ Both require grant funds to be audited annually by a CPA (included in our recent Auditor RFP)
- ▶ DCED will only pay up to 10% of construction costs for engineering and 5% of construction for contingencies
- ▶ Suggests one park be done at a time and then reapply for other park
- ▶ Any monies spent before receipt of award of either grant-are Township out-of-pocket expenses and are not eligible for grant reimbursement
- ▶ Both were impressed with the caliber of expertise of implementation team
- ▶ DCNR said, "Andy (Andy Mears and JMT), always like your work as its done right."
- ▶ Received emails afterwards from DCNR stating impressed with the pre-grant preparation

PARK COSTS

(See Park Plan for Itemizations)

Park	Description	Cost
Municipal Park	Including Tear Down or Converting Present Municipal Building into a Pavilion	\$988,826.09
Municipal Park	Excluding Tear Down or Converting Present Municipal Building into a Pavilion	\$903,826.09
Autumn Meadow		\$630,274.50

Recommendation: Move forward with Autumn Meadow Park first

- 1) Less money
- 2) Within residential area needing a full facility park
- 3) Status of Municipal Building undecided
- 4) Less Expensive annual O&M costs

AUTUMN MEADOW PARK FUNDING OPTIONS & Phases: \$630,274.50

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	AUTUMN MEADOW PARK						
		Construction & Contingency	Costs	Page	DDED (55%)	DCRA (50%)	TOWNSHIP
1							
2							
3	Year 1	Design & Specification					
4	P 11 & P 16	15% Design fees of Construction	\$ 77,434.50	(from Andy)	\$ 46,991.40		0 \$ 30,443.10
5							
6	Year 2	Construction & Contingency					
7	P. 11 & P. 16	Mobilization	\$ 10,800.00	P. 28	\$ -	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00
8		Site Prep and Demo	\$ 1,600.00	P. 28	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 270.00	\$ -
9		Erosion and Sedimentation	\$ 16,500.00	P. 28	\$ -	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 8,250.00
10		Earthwork	\$ 5,250.00	P. 28	\$ -	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,625.00
11		Pavements (viewing area, pad and pavers, painted)	\$ 108,600.00	P. 28	\$ 92,310.00	\$ 16,290.00	\$ -
12		6 wide trail	\$ 76,000.00	P. 28	\$ 64,600.00	\$ 11,400.00	\$ -
13		Stormwater	\$ 75,000.00	P. 28	\$ -	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
14		Site Amenities (ADA Plonic Tables & benches	\$ 4,300.00		\$ -	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,150.00
15		10% Design Contingency of Construction	\$ 46,930.00		\$ 39,890.50	\$ 7,039.50	\$ -
16		Construction Contingency 5% of Construction	\$ 23,465.00		\$ -	\$ 11,732.50	\$ 11,732.50
17	P. 28 & 29	Landscaping	\$ 25,220.00	P. 28	\$ -	\$ 12,610.00	\$ 12,610.00
18		Retaining Walls	\$ 35,000.00	P. 29	\$ -	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
19		Bleachers	\$ 22,250.00	P. 30	\$ -	\$ 11,125.00	\$ 11,125.00
20		Youth Playground	\$ 34,280.00	P. 30	\$ -	\$ 17,140.00	\$ 17,140.00
21		Tot Lot	\$ 25,200.00	P. 30	\$ -	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 12,600.00
22							
23	Year 3	Required Fencing/around Maintenance Area	\$ 42,245.00			\$ 21,122.50	\$ 21,122.50
24							
25		AUTUMN MEADOW PARK - RECAP					
26		TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 630,274.50		\$ 245,311.90	\$ 194,754.50	\$ 190,198.10
27		Less Possible Landscaping Partnership with Clearwater					\$ (12,610.00)
28		Less Possible Playground 50% grants					\$ (14,870.00)
29		Less Possible Bleacher Contribution from Centre Bulldogs					\$ (11,125.00)
30		Township Cash Needed (if partnerships succeed)					\$151,593.10

ITEMS STILL NEEDED BEFORE GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

DEED	WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR?	DCNR	WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR?
CRPA and County confirm consistency with Comprehensive Plan	Trish Meek	Same	Same
State, federal and local permitting	Andy/Don	Same	Same
Funding Commitment Letter from Playground equipment entity	(includes researching & applying) ?	Same	Same
Funding Commitment Letter from Clearwater Conservancy on landscaping	?	Same	Same
Funding Commitment Letter fro Centre Bulldogs on Bleachers	?	Same	Same
Funding Commitment Letter from Township on match	Manager	Same	Same
Funding Commitment letter from Financial Institution on Interim Financing for total project (poyments due upon receipt—then reimbursed by Township/State)	Manager	Same	Same
Draft letters of Support from Centre Region Municipalities and County	Trish Meek	Same	Same
Letters of Support from State Elected Officials	?	?	?
Copies of notifications provided to county and municipal governing bodies advising them of the proposed project	Trish Meek	Same	Same
Hire auditor for grant audit	Manager/Supervisors	Same	Same
Resolution duly adopted by applicants' governing board formally requesting the grant, designating an official to execute all documents	Supervisors	Same	Same

ITEMS CONSIDERED IN PREPARING TIMELINE

Goal: To expend as little as possible in present Township funds for pre-construction and construction costs

1. Need DCED money as a match for DCNR grant
2. DCED application is due after DCNR application
3. Therefore DCED application must be applied and funds secured before applying for DCNR grant
4. Need to complete items on the previous page for either grant application
5. Supervisors need to decide on which park they want to apply for funding
6. Supervisors need to discuss and decide on matching funds commitment
7. Manager has to arrange for interim financing for construction phase of project

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Timeframe	Items
5/16-5/17	Discuss and/or secure playground grants and funding commitments from company. Clearwater and Centre Bulldogs, Planning Agency approval for project, letters of support from municipalities, county, state elected officials, permitting requirements, township matching dollars and commitment, interim financing (construction financing) commitment from financial institution, hire auditor, resolution to apply for DCED Grant, PSU survey citizens for programming (part of plan)
6/30/17	Apply for DCED Grant
7/1/17-9/1/17	DCED Review
10/1/17	Notice of Award and Grant Agreement and commitment Letter sent to Township
12/1/17 (or sooner)	Grant Agreement and Commitment letter must be back to DCED
1/1/18-4/12/18	Engineering, permitting, construction documents prepared
4/13/18	Apply for DCNR Grant
4/13/18-10/30/18	Finish construction documents, specifications, advertise, bid and award
4/13/16-11/18/18	DCNR Application Review
12/1/18	DCNR awards grant and commitments sent out
3/19-12/19	Construction occurs

NEXT STEPS

Supervisors need to decide:

1. Which park is going to done first?
2. If Autumn Meadow, are Township funds available for 15% match for the DCED (\$245,321.90 x .15) if DCNR grant is not secured?
 - ▶ Match required: \$36,798.29
 - ▶ Answer: Yes-Have \$60,504.80 in park reserve as of 3/10/16 Treasurers Report
3. Do the supervisors wish to commit a little over ½ of the park reserve to the match?
4. Do the supervisors wish to enter into an agreement with PSU Sustainability Department for marketing the plan to elicit programming ideas and leadership (part of the Park Plan and will need to be addressed in grants)
5. Which supervisors wish to be responsible for items with question marks (Clearwater, Park equipment grants, Centre Bulldogs, letters of support from elected officials)