

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO: C(5)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: JANUARY 17, 2012

TITLE: Energy Efficiency Program Update and Approval of Additional ARRA Funds

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING, MANAGER, ECD	PUBLIC HEARING: No
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Staff memo	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RANDY DODD, 918-7326 NORA BARGER, 918-7334 MATT EFIRD, 918-7314 ANNETTE STONE, 918-7319

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on recent activities related to an ARRA award for energy efficiency in buildings, and to approve additional federal funds and program plans for the next phase of the program.

INFORMATION:

Town staff have worked with Chapel Hill staff and the Southeastern Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) on a successful grant application to the USDOE for ARRA funds geared towards community scale energy efficiency retrofits of existing buildings. Previous agenda items and memos about the opportunity were provided on June 1, June 22, and December 3, 2010 and June 15 and August 23, 2011; information from those reports is for the most part not repeated in this item. Chapel Hill and Carrboro have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and separate but coordinated agreements with SEEA. Chapel Hill and Carrboro are receiving support from Clean Energy Solutions, Inc. (CESI) to pursue this effort. A commercial project has been completed at Surplus Sids, and Town and CESI staff are actively recruiting additional businesses. A single family residential energy efficiency program has also been released, with assessments and projects under way. In December, 2011, SEEA staff informed Carrboro staff that SEEA would be allocating the remainder of their Better Building Grant funds to participating subgrantees, with SEEA offering Carrboro an allocation of \$165k. This is new funding to be programmed and spent by May, 2013. Town staff have prepared a draft budget based on a concept of: modifying the MOA with Chapel Hill to continue to work with CESI staff; accepting additional funding for the single family residential program, and pursuing one or more pilot projects with multifamily residential properties.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT:

Previous grant fiscal impacts are conveyed in the budget in the attached staff memo; no new Town funds are proposed. Several staff members will continue to spend time implementing the commercial and residential programs. The primary administrative work will continue to be performed by CESI as arranged for in the MOA with Chapel Hill.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the resolution provided accepting the update, multifamily pilot plans, and additional funding. Staff encourage the Board to not delay action because of the risk

of jeopardizing grant funding and performance, and to facilitate activities associated with the new multifamily pilot and residential program.