

Holly Delisle

From: Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:32 PM
To: Ron Rodjenski; Holly Delisle
Cc: ACCD - CRRP; Beckett, Ellie; Hartleben, Jessica
Subject: Re: Westford's Community Recovery and Revitalization (CRRP) Award

Hello Ron and Holly,

We have watched the recent Selectboard meeting video in which the proposed wastewater system was discussed and reviewed the Town Meeting ballot. Based on these, it does not appear that Westford has been able to; 1) secure voter approval for the proposed project or; 2) that it has been able to meet the Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP) requirement that its' project be facilitating economic development. Therefore, as a follow-up to my previous message, included below, I am writing to notify you that we are not able to proceed with our proposed award to Westford. We are taking this action so that we can pursue an award to another applicant in time to meet the US Treasury requirements for deploying the funds.

I am sorry that we were not able to move forward with this project.

Brett Long
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Economic Development
802-461-9353

From: Ron Rodjenski <RRodjenski@westfordvt.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 5:11 PM
To: Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>
Cc: ACCD - CRRP <ACCD.CRRP@vermont.gov>; Holly Delisle <hdelisle@westfordvt.us>
Subject: Re: Westford's Community Recovery and Revitalization (CRRP) Award

You don't often get email from rrodjenski@westfordvt.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Brett,

Thank you for this information. I've forwarded the email to Holly Delisle, Westford Town Administrator, copied here for future correspondence. Appreciate the insight and request.

Ron

From: Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 9:16 AM
To: Ron Rodjenski <RRodjenski@westfordvt.us>
Cc: ACCD - CRRP <ACCD.CRRP@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Westford's Community Recovery and Revitalization (CRRP) Award

Hello Rod,

I had a call with selectboard member McClenny on January 30th in which he asked us to delay our decision on asking for Westford's withdrawal of its potential CRRP award until after a selectboard meeting on February 8th. I have not heard back from Mr. McClenny since that meeting - and I don't believe that I have his email address. Therefore, are you able to tell me if Westford was able to resolve the voter approval and economic development issues that were impeding the CRRP award? If, not we will need to cancel the proposed award and move forward with the reallocation of these funds to another project since this program has relatively short deadlines for the obligation of awarded funds and the completion of awarded projects.

Thanks for your help. Please let us know as quickly as possible. If we don't hear back by Friday we will need to cancel the award on our end. I hope that all was resolved and that we can move forward with an award for your wastewater project.

Brett Long
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Economic Development
802-461-9353

From: Ron Rodjenski <RRodjenski@westfordvt.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>
Cc: ACCD - CRRP <ACCD.CRRP@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Westford's Community Recovery and Revitalization (CRRP) Award

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Hi Brett,

I'll work on your request. However, is that information from the property owner or a tenant? Or does it not matter?

Thanks,

Ron

From: Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Ron Rodjenski <RRodjenski@westfordvt.us>
Cc: ACCD - CRRP <ACCD.CRRP@vermont.gov>
Subject: Westford's Community Recovery and Revitalization (CRRP) Award

Hello Ron,

I am writing to follow-up on our recent conversation regarding an award from our CRRP program to support a wastewater project in Westford. In that conversation we had proposed to keep that proposed award open to Westford following the defeat of the project in a Town bond vote. I would like to let you know that we recently received an email from Erin and Basil Panattu, who refer to themselves as the operators of the Westford Country Store and Café. In that

message they withdraw their support for the grant award to Westford. They go on to say that they have been able to secure the wastewater capacity that they need without the proposed system. Their withdrawal appears to eliminate the need for the system to support “the expansion of an existing business” which is one of the eligibility factors considered in granting the proposed award. Without this economic development need, it appears that Westford is no longer eligible for an award. If you believe that the Town is still eligible for an award, please let me know. Otherwise, please confirm that you would like to withdraw your application so that we can redeploy the funds to support another project.

Brett Long
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Economic Development
802-461-9353