

OBTAINED BY FOIL/CITY OF OGDENSBURG

Housing Rehab Meeting

June 14, 2011

11:30 a.m.

In attendance: Arthur J. Sciorra, Gregg Mallette, Kathy Bateman, & Jim O'Neil

The meeting was called regarding 5 complaints that were received on tax grievance day by Kathy Bateman from people that were part of the City Housing Rehabilitation program.

Hamilton Street - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

Boards on ceiling are broken, windows installed improperly (some upside down, can see through to outside at frame), plumbing at washing machine leaks, felt they were forced to have things done that they didn't want to have completed.

Augustine inspected, electrical inspected, No city inspection at this time.
Contractor paid.

Franklin Street - [REDACTED]

Some items were not completed.
City inspection next week.
Contractor paid.

Riverside Avenue - [REDACTED]

Claims shingles were of lesser quality than what he was charged for. States \$12,000 SHIPO grant was forced. Ron inspected house last Friday, Jim was there also, no mention of dissatisfaction at that time.
City will inspect within next day or two.

Washington Street [REDACTED]

Work issued for her house, not proper, not complete. Gap in siding and insulation. She felt pressured and made to do things she did not want done. Started at \$20,000 grant and ended up at \$60,000.

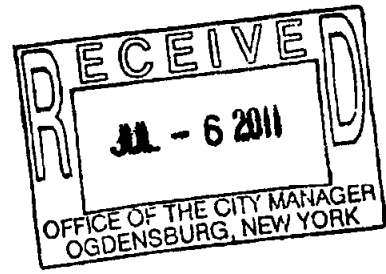
NYSERDA contractor (separate from the City) took advantage of this person. The first \$20,000 was for a NYSERDA grant, much of the work was not completed and what was completed was shabby work. The city rehab grant fixed and completed much of what the other one was supposed to do.

Elizabeth Street [REDACTED]

Work not completed, he has a plank house and was charged for insulation. Mr. O'Neil states a change order was completed where the contractor deducted the insulation once he knew the house was a plank construction.
City inspection completed on 12/29/2010.

Elizabeth Street [REDACTED]

July 5, 2011



Mr. Arthur Sciorra
City Manager
City of Ogdensburg
City Hall
Ogdensburg, New York 13669

Dear Mr. Sciorra:

We, the undersigned members of the Board of Assessment and Review for the City of Ogdensburg, are writing this letter to you as we have been inundated with grievances that the taxpayers have based on sub-standard construction. These taxpayers report that the projects were funded by grant money received from the City Planning Department. They have presented us with pictures of work that has not been completed and work completed that is obviously sub-standard.


The feedback we have received from these taxpayers is they have called their contractors numerous times, but to no avail. Since the contractor had already received full payment, these homeowners had no recourse other than to accept the project. We are not trying to blame anyone for what has happened; only hoping that making others aware of what has been presented to us will prevent the same from happening in the future.


There should be a better way to oversee a grant project. A system of checks and balances should be in place to ensure that work is completed by code and in proper fashion. Perhaps the Planning Department needs to put steps in place to ensure that the grant money is spent appropriately and that the contractors are providing a quality product. Maybe some of these contractors should be removed from the accepted contractor's list, or at least have their work monitored.


Numerous reductions in taxes were granted this year due to this sub-standard construction. This is a concern to our Board as the loss of this tax revenue impacts the rest of the taxpayers in Ogdensburg. Grant money is also tax money and should be spent appropriately.


Once again, it is not our intent to devise a monitoring system, but to inform others of the need for the same. Thank you for your anticipated time and consideration to this problem. We look forward to hearing from you as to a resolution of this problem.


Sincerely,


Barbara J. Barlow, BAR Chairperson

Gary Bouchard, BAR Member


Linda Fortin, BAR Member


Jim Morrison, BAR Member


Jean Tennant, BAR Member


Cc: Andrew Silver, Justin Woods,
Greg Mallette, Jim O'Neil