

# HUD Refuses Glastonbury Approval To Use \$850,000

By  
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In its first such action in the state, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development told Glastonbury Friday it cannot spend the \$850,000 remaining in its third-year block grant because it has failed to provide housing for low-income and moderate-income families.

Tuesday, the Glastonbury Town Council rejected 7-1 a proposal for 71 units of the housing which had progressed through the town zoning process for nearly a year. It was approved by all other necessary boards and commissions, but was rejected by the council because the site was considered flood-prone.

HUD placed the housing requirement on the Hartford suburb last August when it approved the total grant of \$910,000. Agency officials said at the time the town had not met the housing goals it

set for itself when it first applied for block grant funds two years earlier. The agency had given the town until the end of February to approve sites for such housing and had been awaiting the council decision.

"We felt the conditions (of the grant) have clearly not been satisfied," HUD Area Director Lawrence L. Thompson said Friday, after notifying the town it could no longer spend the money.

To date, the town has spent about \$60,000 of the grant.

"We haven't sorted out in our minds the question of repaying funds already spent," Thompson said. "We might have to go to Washington (HUD national office) for a final determination on that."

When asked if the town could get the grant reinstated, Thompson said, "We haven't thought about that. This action is so unusual and unprecedented, we didn't ask ourselves that question. The bigger question in our minds is the town's fourth-year application, which is due in June."

At the same meeting it voted down the housing proposal, the Town Council completed work on the application for the fourth-year grant of \$592,000. Of that amount, \$200,000 was allocated for buying land in town to build subsidized housing. Another \$172,000 was earmarked for improvements to the town's existing

**See Glastonbury, Page 10**

# Glastonbury Told It Can't Use Funds

Continued from Page 1

public housing development of 199 units.

Nearly \$298,000 of the total third-year grant was allocated for the town's urban renewal project. "The town has legal obligations on the project which will have to be met," Town Manager Donald C. Peach said. He referred to relocation payments to persons displaced by the urban renewal project as well as the costs of acquiring the remaining land in the urban renewal area.

Of the third-year grant, \$25,000 was allocated for housing rehabilitation loans and grants, \$165,000 was allocated to buying land on which to develop subsidized housing, \$60,000 was earmarked for the improvements to the existing public housing project, and \$200,000 was proposed for construction of a sewer to an area proposed for high density development.

"I was hoping we could sit

down with Mr. Thompson and work something out," Town Council Chairman Henry H. Kinne said. Council Republican Majority Leader Dale A. Richter said, "I am disappointed they saw fit to react so quickly. Approval of the site would have compromised our zoning laws."

An affluent suburb, Glastonbury has a population of about 26,000.

It covers about 53 square miles and is about half developed.

Glastonbury was one of the seven suburban towns which successfully opposed Hartford when that city sued HUD in 1975 for giving them federal funds. Hartford said the suburbs didn't meet federal regulations which required an estimate of low-income families that would live in the suburbs if inexpensive housing were available.