



Washington Economic Development Committee
Tues, Jan 14, 2020 - Notes

Notes:

> A New Senior Center

A Community Meeting to review the implications of a NEW Senior Center. Tues, Jan 14, 4:00PM, Town Hall. Expected attendance 60. Conversation with the community to be led by Jim Brinton, Sara Osborne to record. Following a brief review of the current situation, the focus will be the questions and concerns of the community. This will be the first of several workshops to develop a final plan. Steering committees will be recruited to advance the project.

> A New Washington Park

Lisa Stein introduced Tal Fagin. Tal announced a plan to create a “dog park” in Washington to provide community and social space for dog owners. Current thinking is to install the park on property alongside the Rte 47 Firehouse. Steep Rock is making the property available for the park. Consideration may be given to a dog park next to a new senior center when it is completed. Funding for construction and on-going maintenance will be from private sources.

> Young Families

Michael Jackson briefly reviewed the circumstances that initiated NOW, the program to bring young families to Washington. Julie King, a Southey’s realtor, has been developing the communications/ recruiting – Actionable Messaging - program. Testing is planned for the Apr – June period this spring. New movers to Town will be interviewed to determine what about Washington drew them to consider it and the considerations/ steps they went thru to buy. A first draft of the survey has been circulated for review. SandorMax, the Town’s communications manager, has developed a proposal to support the Now initiative. Dan Sherr reported on an initiative, supported by the Northwest Hills Council of Government, to introduce interested young buyers to school districts depending on which Towns the prospects were considering. The One Eleven agency, West Cornwall is soliciting support and has approached Region 12.

> WIFI in the Depot – Update/Plan

First Selectman, Jim Brintin provided a brief update on WIFI Depot project. Region 12 support, the source of the broadband, has been confirmed by the schools and first selectman of each of the R12 towns. The equipment to transmit the broadband signal from the Washington Primary School to Washington Town Hall has been installed with testing started. Next step is installation of repeaters to provide full coverage of the Depot. Full capability is planned for the 2Q2020.

> Washington Community Development Coordinator Position

Dan Sherr reported, as part of the Town 2020 – 2021 budgeting process, funding will be requested for the position of Washington Community Development Coordinator. See below. The position will advance the implementation of the annual WED (POCD) Plan developed by the WEDC. The intent is to assess the contribution a Coordinator makes in advancing the economic and community well-being of Washington during the first two years of funding. A decision making the position permanent would establish a continuing line item in the annual Town budget. There was agreement that the position should be filled by someone thoroughly familiar with the Town.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Position of Washington CT Community Development Coordinator

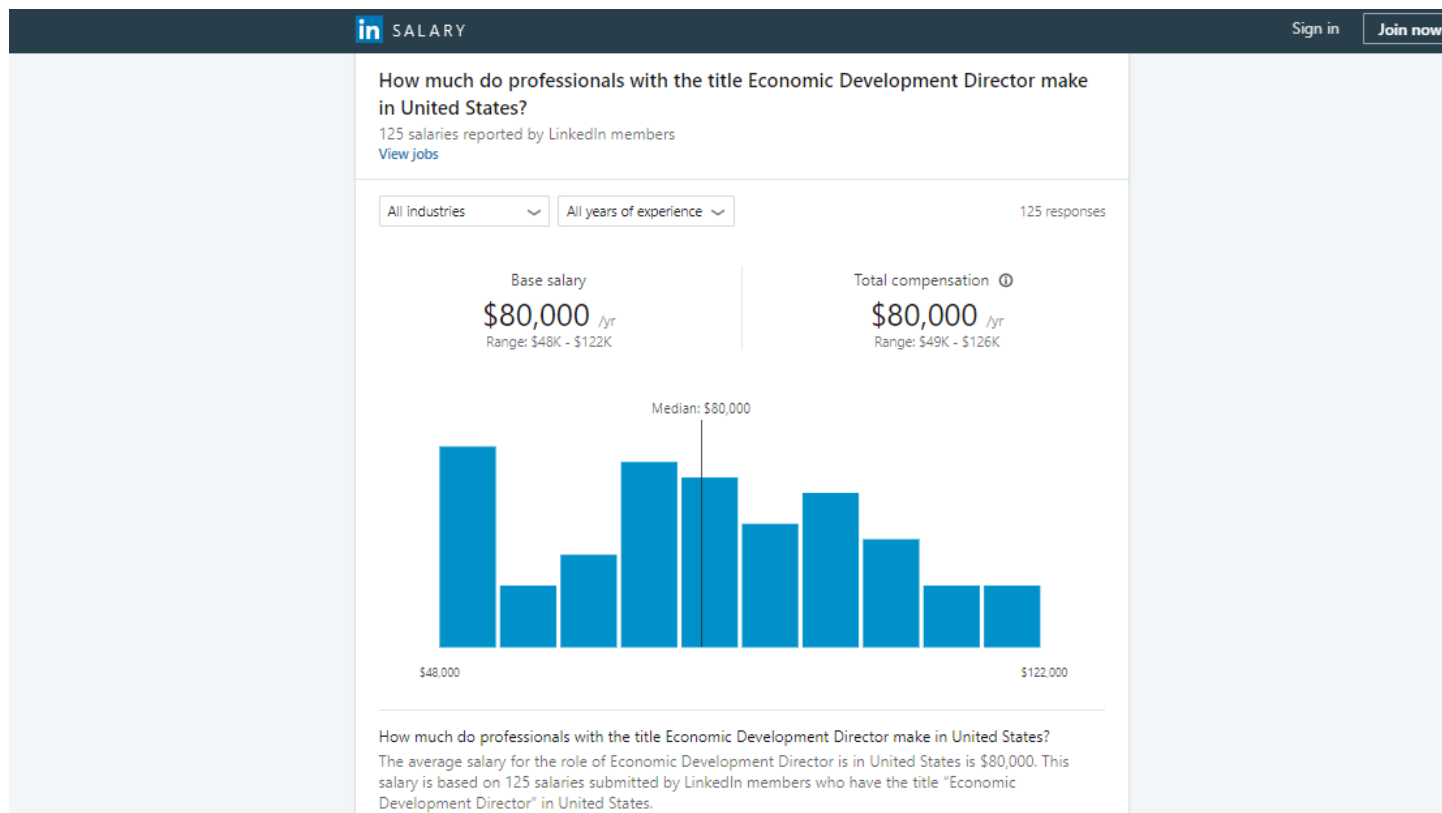
> Contractor

> 7.5 hrs/day @ 4 days/wk = 30 hrs = 1560/yr

> \$1560 @ \$26.50 = \$41,340 annually [\$42,500]

Plus incidentals, phone, laptop = \$5,000

Total = \$47,500





REQUEST FOR FUNDING – 2019 - 2020

WASHINGTON CT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

PURPOSE OF POSITION

The Washington CT Community Development Coordinator, coordinates activities and implements programs that advance the community development and economic vitality of the Town.

She/he is responsible for the development, conduct, execution and documentation of the annual Washington Community Development Plan.

The Coordinator guides the supporting organizations based on objectives/ goals/ performance metrics of the annually approved action plan.

The Washington Community Development Director reports to the First Selectman.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

[1] Develop the strategies that fully utilize the Town's human, economic and natural resources to advance the Town's economic and community vitality.

[2] Develop the annual action plan with a focus on organization, coordination, and communications.

[3] Recruit and engage persons and groups from the community to advance the annual Washington Economic and Community Development Plan.

[4] Administer the Washington Annual Economic Community Development Program, including annual plan/budget development, contracting with consultants, accounting and reporting. Prepare requests to funding organizations and agencies. Supervise and integrate the work of consultants.

[5] Build on-going working relationships with supportive regional and state organizations.

[6] Implement communications, including periodic updates, that keep the community fully engaged in Washington's Economic Development and Community Programming.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

> Advancing social and/or economic programs in smaller New England communities (10K or less population).

> Facilitating "community conversations".

> Working with smaller nonprofits - annual budgets of \$1MM or less.

> A hands-on work-style particularly implementing approved projects/programs.

> A working familiarity with Main Street and PlaceMaking approaches particularly tracking/reporting progress to permit comparative performance documentation and evaluation.

Note: With a longstanding tradition of Arts & Culture, Washington is an affluent rural community of 3500 an hour and a half from Manhattan in the NW Corner of Connecticut.