

CDBG PUBLIC HEARING
Borough of Edinboro
June 8, 2020

Welcome to the Public Hearing:

Mayor Gast opened the public hearing at 5:37 PM, held via Zoom meeting due to COVID-19. Council members present were Mary Ann Horne, Aaron Gast, Jim Kiley, and Alyssa Dobson. Absent were Fred Langill, Mark Eisert, and Pat Davis. Also present were Manager Kevin Oppe, Finance Director Jason Spangenberg, Solicitor Tim Wachter, Joe Berdis of Erie County Planning, and MJ Campbell. The meeting was turned over to Joe Berdis.

Purpose of Hearing:

This public hearing is the first of two public hearings regarding the Borough's FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Notice of hearing appeared in the Erie Times News on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 as well as posted on the Borough's website. No comments were received prior to this hearing. The second and final hearing will be scheduled at a date and time to be determined. This hearing is to provide information on the CDBG program, review/update the Three-Year CDBG Plan, and discuss how the Borough may want to utilize its CDBG funding.

Background Information:

The Borough is entitled to receive an annual allocation of CDBG funds from the PA DCED pursuant to PA Act 179 of 1984. Since 1985 the Borough has received approximately \$4.7 million in funding. Exhibit 1 was reviewed showing allocations from 1985 to 2020. The FY 2020 allocation of \$117,835 is an increase of \$3,025 from FY 2019. A portion of the allocation will be set aside for administration which will be provided by County Planning. The submission deadline for the application to DCED requesting the funding is October 28.

Eligible Activities:

CDBG funds can be used for a wide array of activities which include, but are not limited to: water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, street reconstruction, sidewalk/curb replacement, recreation improvements, housing rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, property acquisition, fair housing activities, handicapped accessibility improvements, planning activities (subject to 15% cap), and administration (subject to 18% cap). Exhibit 2 was reviewed, which identified the eligible and ineligible activities. Exhibit 3 was also reviewed, which identified the Borough projects from the last 3 fiscal years that have been funded by CDBG.

CDBG Program Requirements:

Activities must meet one of the three National Objectives of the program:

- ✓ Principally benefit low-to-moderate income persons
- ✓ Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- ✓ Meet a community development need having a particular urgency, because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available to meet the need

The primary objective is to benefit low-to-moderate income persons and at least 51% of the funds must go towards meeting this objective. That means 51% of the persons benefiting from an activity are of low-to-moderate income. An LMI person is an individual/family whose income does not exceed 80% of median income. Exhibit 4 was reviewed, showing current income limits.

Determining concentrations of LMI persons in a community:

Concentrations of LMI persons can be determined in one of two ways:

- ✓ American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015 Data: ACS data can be referenced when a project's benefit area coincides with a census geographic area - census tract/block group - that has an LMI concentration of 51% or above.
- ✓ Income Surveys – this is the most widely used method as most communities do not have census geographic areas that are 51% or above and most project benefit areas do not coincide with a census geographic area

The Borough is located within Census Tract 0122.02 and divided into six block groups. The Borough's LMI population is 48.12% which means that any project that would benefit the entire community will not qualify for CDBG funding. Block Group 1 consisting of the Lakeside area and Block Group 4 consisting of the downtown area are the only two block groups which meet the LMI requirements for CDBG funding.

There are activities which do not require a survey nor depend on census information to qualify for funding. These are activities which according to HUD will benefit clientele who are generally presumed to be principally low-to-moderate income persons. This clientele includes abused children, elderly persons, battered spouses, homeless persons, disabled adults, illiterate adults, persons living with the disease AIDS, and migrant farm workers. Examples of these activities include installation of curb-cut ramps, improvements to a senior center, and handicapped accessibility to a municipal building. Another activity which would not require a survey nor depend on census information to qualify for funding would be housing rehabilitation assistance for income qualified, single family, owner-occupied persons.

Review and update of three-year community development plan and discuss possible FY 2020 projects:

The Borough's housing objectives were stated as follows, with Manager Oppe confirming there was no change from last year for this: the community's housing stock is relatively modern

and there exists a well-established code enforcement program. As such, Borough officials contend there is no urgent need to undertake a single family and/or rental housing rehabilitation program. Continue to enforce building and related codes to promote sound maintenance and rehabilitation of existing housing units. Mr. Berdis noted that single family housing rehabilitation may need to be added as a potential project if no other projects qualify.

Mr. Berdis listed the public facilities needs and objectives. Street reconstruction or rehabilitation is an ongoing need of the Borough. Milling and paving Waterford Street between Rt. 99 and Ontario Street was on the list of needs, as was sidewalk improvements along Rt. 99 from 6N to Onda Beach on both sides of the street and also along Lakeside Drive.

Fred Langill arrived at this point.

Manager Oppe stated that the Waterford Street paving project may receive about \$60k in funding from a Federal Aid Route, with a final decision on this expected by June 24. If the funding is approved, about \$40k would still be needed from CDBG for the project. Council discussed adding the paving of Lakeside Drive to the list of projects for 2020 funding, and Manager Oppe was asked to submit a letter declaring that the street is used by that whole Block Group.

Council determined that the order of priority for these projects would be 1) paving Waterford Street, 2) paving Lakeside Drive, and 3) repairing sidewalks.

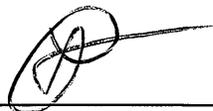
Adjournment:

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

ATTEST:



Manager Kevin Oppe



Mayor Aaron Gast