

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES



PUBLIC HEARING
SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT ON LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR PROJECTS IN THE TOWN.
1ST OF 2 REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARINGS
MARCH 1, 2018

I. PUBLIC HEARING: SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT ON LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR PROJECTS IN THE TOWN.

1ST OF 2 REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARINGS

MAYOR FRANCIS PERRY OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:30 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk – Wayne Bledsoe

	PRESENT:	ABSENT:
Mayor, Frances Perry	X	
Vice Mayor, Roger Cassell	X	
Council Member, Allan “Cotton” Roberts	X	
Council Member, Robin Richards	X	
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.	X	
Council Member, Ron Kindle	X	
Town Manager, Greg Jones	X	
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks	X	

Others present: Debbie Ramey, Kevin Dingus, Bob Richards, Frank Kibler

III. NEW BUSINESS

SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT ON LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR PROJECTS IN THE TOWN.

- Town Manager Greg Jones explained the Town’s intention to submit a grant application for housing improvement and rehabilitation in the Park Street area of Gate City.
- The first of 2 required public hearings will focus on the informational aspect of the project, while the second public hearing (March 13) focuses on specific questions concerning the project.
- Introduced Frank Kibler, Senior Planner, LENOWISCO Planning District, to further explain the project.
- Mr. Kibler highlighted the following:
 - Distributed a handout detailing the proposed grant process and how funding is determined and awarded:

- Virginia's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. In 2018, Virginia's CDBG funding will be allocated to:

2017 FUNDING COMMITMENTS (Multi-Year) (\$756,100)

OPEN SUBMISSION PROGRAMS (\$4,650,000), open 1/1/18 - 9/28/18 Planning

Grants (\$500,000)

Range from \$10,000-\$40,000, depending on project type

Construction-Ready water and sewer

Up to \$500,000 per project, cannot exceed \$12,500 in CDBG funds per household for water projects, \$15,000 for sewer projects Provision of new service; at least 60 percent LMI

Must be ready, need additional funds; able to be under contract within 60 days

Community Development Innovation

Local Innovation Program - up to \$200,000 per project; small scale, innovative efforts Self-Help Virginia - up to \$350,000 per project; residents/stakeholders involvement; must save 40 percent over conventional

Supplemental Housing Rehab - \$50,000; guarantees mortgage loan funding for additional IPR and CDBG housing rehab beneficiaries

Community Economic Development

Up to \$700,000 per project, tied to number of jobs created

Assist in location or expansion of basic industries, with job/investment commitment

Economic Development

Targets job creation/retention by basic and non-basic industries, site redevelopment, or completion of improvements that will result in creation of businesses and job opportunities

URGENT NEED Open Submission (\$1,000,000)

Up to \$700,000 per project; *open 1/1/18 -10/31/18*

Respond to existing threats to local health/safety - Governor's emergency declaration or State Health Commissioner's declaration of immediate/severe health threat

VIBRANT COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (\$2,000,000)

Combines multiple funding sources to support local or regional comprehensive community-based project including affordable housing and community and/or economic development components

COMPETITIVE GRANTS (\$8,549,031 estimated)

Submission deadline - March 30th

- CDBG-funded projects must meet one of three national objectives: low- and moderate-income benefit (eligibility guidelines require at least 51 percent of project beneficiaries be classified as LMI; typically determined through income surveys), slum and blight elimination, and urgent community development needs.

- There are five primary project types under the Competitive Grant option:
 - Business District Revitalization
 - Housing (housing rehabilitation, housing production)
 - Community Facilities (water services, wastewater services)
 - Community Service Facilities (e.g., day care, clinics, workforce development)
 - Comprehensive Community Development (combination of activities)
- Localities must minimize the displacement of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and farms in implementing projects using CDBG funding. This includes direct displacement resulting from real property acquisition, rehabilitation, demolition, and conversion, and any indirect displacement.
- Gate City's use of CDBG funds in recent years - Downtown Revitalization, Courthouse Hill housing (planning grant)

QUESTIONS:

- **What is meant by a “multi-year” funding commitment?**
 - Sometimes, DHCD will receive a grant application that it deems a viable project, but determines the project needs to be split into phases. DHCD will fund the project, however, the determination is to break the project into varying portions. In this situation, monies are divided over different years, leading to a multi-year funding commitment.
- **Are some categories of projects prioritized above others?**
 - Each locality determines what its community needs are. Some localities may have utility needs, while others may have housing needs. Each locality determines the project area which has the greatest need and applies accordingly. No project carries any more weight than another project. Each grant application is scored and ranked based on various criteria.
- **Can a locality apply for more than one grant within their municipality?**
 - A locality can apply for more than one project within a given year, but DHCD will generally not fund more than one project in a given year. If a locality applied for more than one area of funding in a given year, DHCD would determine by score and ranking which project had the greatest need.
- **Are health and safety items such as lead pipes or asbestos removal addressed within the grant application process?**
 - Yes. Some localities are addressing the replacement of aging infrastructure such as lead pipes and asbestos removal, especially within the scope of home rehabilitation and demolition.
- Mr. Kibler also mentioned the requirements of the housing rehabilitation project.
 - Low to Moderate Income (LMI) houses.
 - Fall within the mapped location of Phase One:



IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Close public comment at 7:25 P. M.

V. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSSES AT 7:26 P.M.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Wayne Bledsoe - Town Clerk