

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2017
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
AUGUST 14, 2017 AT 4:45 PM
LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting opened at 4:50 PM with Borough Council Vice President Larry Searer presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Wilson, Mr. Eddinger, Mr. Rager, and Larry Searer were present. Mr. Moore, Mr. Felmlee, and Mr. Berrier were absent.

Larry Searer asked everyone to sign the sign-in sheet that is required for a public hearing.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Mr. (Jim) Lettiere, stated this was the first of two public meetings held for the 2017 Lewistown Borough CDBG allocations which are \$116,929. The current allocations represent a 1.4% decrease from last year's allocation of \$118,595.

The three national objectives of the program are to benefit low to moderate income people for which the Borough satisfies the threshold because 54% of its population is low to moderate income people.

The first objective is to assist limited clientele which are persons who are developmentally disabled or elderly people.

The second objective is to eliminate slums and blight in the community.

The third objective is to meet an urgent need such as a tornado or flood.

Most of the funds are used to meet the first objective of the program. The Borough designates 15% for program administration costs which allows \$99,389.65 for projects.

The second public hearing will be on September 11, 2017 at 4:45 PM. This meeting will be used to adopt a resolution that determines which projects the funds are to be designated towards. All applications are due at CDBG by November 3, 2017, so they need to be turned in sooner to be submitted by that date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. (Judy) Fitzgerald from Big Brothers and Big Sisters said they requested funding in 2016 which they received. She stated the Borough can elect to fund them fully, or a portion, or not at all. She is requesting \$3,921.81 from the CDBG funds and the Borough for the after school program. She stated they have no income requirements so all the children can participate in the program. She said that it is an evidence based program that shows that children that participate, do better in school, don't get involved in drugs, alcohol, or acts of violence. She thanked the group for the 2016 funds even though they are still waiting for them to come thorough. She hopes they can fund

them again this year. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that anyone who has questions can contact her for more information on the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program.

Mr. (Ryan) Barlett, Captain at the City Hook & Ladder, has a request to upgrade the portable radio system that is 13 years old. The radios aren't compliant with any current firefighter safety regulations and they don't include the mayday feature. This feature is used when fighting structural fires in the event of any incidents. He stated they have a quote of just under \$14,000 from One Stop Communications in Lewistown for a total of 12 portable radios and any apparatus to take into a burning building. This way if there is a mayday this radio will transmit outside for help. They had an incident last year when a couple of firefighters went through the floor of a burning structure and they couldn't transmit out. The fire house would like the funding to be taken into consideration for CDBG funds. The best price they could find per radio was \$1,140. They would be compatible regardless of what equipment any other fire house uses. The City covers the entire Borough and they had approximately 400 alarms last year. They have 40 volunteers and most of them live in the Borough.

Mr. Lettiere stated that if anyone was grieved by the Borough's use of 2015 funds and onward they can fill out a grievance form and lodge a complaint relative to the program. It will then be addressed. He stated that for funding from 2015 and on the Borough must follow the County Procurement Policy and it will go forward for adoption on Thursday, August 17, 2017 by the County Commissioners. 2014 and prior years will follow Borough Procurement Policy. He said that he wanted to make sure that was clear since the Fire House is making the radio request. He doesn't think it's a problem in this instance, but they still have to get 3 quotes. Mr. Barlett stated that he did get three bids; he just brought the best one to the meeting.

Mr. Lettiere stated that the 2015 funds were approved for Ridge Road at \$48,300 plus \$8,100 from 2014, and Marble Street for \$13,375. They are already bid out and will begin on September the 18, 2017. South Wayne Street at \$36,724 from 2015 and \$48,360 from 2016 was multiyear funded. Big Brothers and Big Sisters was funded in 2016 for \$4,576. 2016 funds have not been released yet.

On a motion by Larry Searer Council adjourned at 5:01 P.M.

(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:

(Asst) Borough Secretary