



PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT [CDBG] PROGRAM

Monday, January 21, 2019 - 6:00 PM
Village Hall - 428 Harrison Avenue - Wausaukee, Wisconsin

The meeting opened with an explanation from Jim Frymark [Grant Administrator with Cedar Corporation in Green Bay] of the objectives of the CDBG program, administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]. HUD allocates the funds to the states and in Wisconsin, they are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. He referenced the Village's recent CDBG grant for the new well and that to apply for another grant, the required process is identical to that used when applying for the new well funding.

Briefly described was the amount of total funds the State receives and that the funds are allocated to several different programs, they being the Public Facilities Program, Planning Grant Program, Economic Development Program, Public Facilities for Economic Development, Housing Rehabilitation and the Emergency Assistance Program. Mr. Frymark mentioned upcoming training sessions for the Public Facilities and Planning Grant program during which he will learn more about any program changes, including changes in match requirements and total grant amounts. He also briefly described the CDBG-CLOSE program and that Marinette County will have access to the CLOSE funds for distribution within the County. The CLOSE program could be another potential source of funds for the Village's proposed project, depending on how the County will administer those funds.

Mr. Frymark shared American Community Survey Data for the Village which generated discussion on housing needs. Discussed was the relationship of affordable housing to other community needs, they being workforce housing and additional employment opportunities. Additional comments addressed attracting more businesses and the need to maintain the viability of Main Street.

Mr. Frymark explained that the Village intends to apply for CDBG funds to develop a plan for the reuse of the vacated Stephenson National Bank and Trust building on Main Street and the feasibility of the Village purchasing it. He handed out an information sheet that described how the potential project came about and the purpose of the Plan. Several attendees in the audience expressed their support for the proposed uses of the building [community/senior center, expanded library, Village offices], having heard of the potential project discussed at prior Plan Commission and Board meetings. It was pointed out that the space that would be allocated to Village offices would be a small amount and its portion of the building's cost and renovation would have to be subtracted from total cost figures because it is an ineligible activity for CDBG funds. It was agreed by the attendees that proposed uses of the building will generate more activity for the downtown area as well as prevent the building from remaining vacant and present a distressed image for downtown and the overall community. Sara Pullen, Village Clerk and Treasurer, also pointed out the need to reuse the building and cited that the community center, if constructed, could also become an activity center for after-school activities as well as family events.

Mr. Frymark thanked the attendees for attending and mentioned that if the Planning Grant application is funded, there will be more additional public meetings to gain input and recommendations from the general public.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Sara Pullen, Clerk/Treasurer