

**Minutes of the Public Hearing
Held September 12, 2017**

Mayor David L. Jack called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m., September 12, 2017, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Members Mitchell, Rooney, Prysunka, Gilbert, and Decker were present. Assembly Member Powell was absent. Borough Manager Von Barga and Clerk Kim Lane were also in attendance.

Public Hearing Item:

Accepting alternative proposals for funding consideration, and seeking citizen views and community comments on proposed projects for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

There was no written testimony.

ORAL TESTIMONY

Carol Rushmore, Economic Development Director explained that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was an annual program that the State does; funded through the Housing Urban Development (HUD); 2.4 million available this year.

Rushmore stated the Community must be 51% Low Moderate Income (LMI) in order to be eligible for the grant. There are set guidelines that the Federal Government provides to establish if the particular household is LMI.

Rushmore stated that Wrangell was not eligible beginning in 2015. The City undertook a survey of the community in February, March and April of 2017 and followed all of the rules that were established by the State. Through the surveying, it was determined that Wrangell was almost 53% LMI, which made us now eligible.

Rushmore said that the program has a very specific process that must be followed. Rushmore stated that there were other requirements and those requirements were:

- This Public Hearing is required, and
- Soliciting Community Input, and
- Providing the Assembly and the community with the types of projects that are eligible, and

Rushmore stated that there was application and handbook information in the Assembly's packets.

Rushmore summarized that there were three national objectives for the preferred types of projects.

1. Those that benefited those of low to moderate income, i.e. seniors, disadvantaged, or disabled.
2. Prevent slums or blights.

3. Meet urgent community development needs which pose serious and immediate threat to health and safety.

Rushmore stated that in the packet, there were lists of what could be applied for such as community development, planning, special economic development; not eligible for engineering design projects.

Rushmore stated that there would be a twenty-five percent match; \$850,000.00 is the maximum amount that could be applied for.

Rushmore stated that during the Wrangell Institute Master plan process, the Consultants did a housing analysis and found that Wrangell had almost zero percent vacancy; largest square footage of houses; oldest houses; low rent; but the largest energy costs. Tribe also did an analysis and is working on a plan to become more energy efficient.

Rushmore stated that Staff had put together a list of projects that could be eligible under this project.

1. Fire Truck
2. Water Treatment Facility Construction
3. Shoemaker Bay Harbor Construction
4. Mill Property Acquisition
5. Pool Roof Replacement and facility improvements

Prysunka asked that with the Fire Department writing a grant for a new fire truck with FEMA, if we submitted the fire truck as an option for the CDBG Grant, would that put the FEMA grant opportunity in jeopardy. Rushmore stated that the City would need to submit an intent to apply by early October; she didn't know that the Fire Departments timeline was; would be up to the Assembly on what project was selected.

Rushmore stated that Staff would be setting up another Public Hearing meeting to seek input from the community; Assembly would then they would be asked to make a decision on what project to apply for at the Regular meeting that would follow the Public Hearing meeting.

Gilbert asked how long the LMI time period would be in effect. Rushmore replied that it would be in effect until the 2020 Census; technically, we could apply for this grant annually; cannot apply for the next years grant until the previous grant was seventy-five percent complete though.

Von Bargaen clarified for the Assembly that only one project could be applied for at one time.

Rushmore stated that because only 2.4 million was available, they would most likely be looking at other criteria such as if the community has the money for the match.

Prysunka asked Rushmore to check into if a fire truck could be used; cost for a used truck, could be \$200,000.00 vs. a new truck could be \$600,000.00

In response to Rooney, Rushmore stated that we could use this money for the Shoemaker Bay project along with the Harbor Grant money that we have already received. Rushmore stated that it might help us in the way that we might not have to bond as much money.

In response to Von Bargaen, Rushmore stated that she believed that we would be required to spend down the CDBG Grant money concurrently with the match money; cannot spend the grant money first to reach the seventy-five percent completion goal.


In response to Decker, Rushmore stated that we could submit a letter of intent to apply for a project but then if we chose to choose a different project before the December deadline, we could do that.

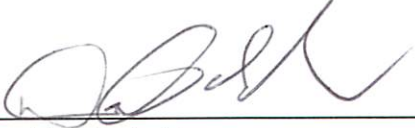
In response to Rooney, she believed that the fire truck might be the way to go because the acquisition could happen before the next years applications were due.

There were no comments from the public.

Public Hearing Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk


David L. Jack, Mayor

