

FEBRUARY 15, 2006
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268
PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2006 CDBG
PROGRAM

Council President Richard George called the public hearing of the Waynesboro Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following in attendance:

Borough Council Members – Allen Porter, Craig Newcomer, Richard George, Charles McCammon and Allen Berry (Jason Stains was absent)

Mayor Richard Starliper

Borough Staff – Lloyd R. Hamberger, II, Borough Manager
Kevin Grubbs, Head of Engineering Services

Others – Ed Geubtner (Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc.)

President George stated the purpose of the hearing was to provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on proposed uses for the Fiscal Year 2006 State Community Development Block Grant Program funds and on the prior use of such funds.

Mr. Edward Geubtner, a representative of Mullin and Lonergan Associates (the Borough's Community Development Block Grant consultants) was present to explain the program and answer any questions. Mr. Geubtner began by stating that the Borough of Waynesboro is allocated to receive \$166,806, as they have been an entitlement community since 1984.

This "needs hearing" is the first of two required public hearings, during which time elected officials and/or members of the public discuss needs of the Borough and how they feel the funds should be utilized. Mr. Geubtner provided those present with a hand-out (Technical Bulletin No. 1 - Range of Eligible Activities), which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

It was noted that, in previous years, the Borough of Waynesboro has used CDBG funds for street reconstruction, housing rehabilitation, ADA improvements, etc. Mr. Geubtner explained that all projects and activities of the program must meet one of three national objectives, as follows:

- Activity/project is of urgent need, threatens the health/safety of residents and occurred within the last 90 days;
- Activity/project addresses slum and blight areas – The Planning Commission must certify an area as a re-development area (in accordance

with the State's Re-development Law).

Mr. Geubtner noted that, several years ago, the Borough's Planning Commission defined the Town-Center as meeting this national objective, in order that funds could be utilized in that area. He cautioned, however, that only 30% of the monies can be expended in any given year for slum and blight activity.

- 70% of the funds can be utilized to meet the needs of low/moderate income individuals.

Mr. Geubtner explained the procedure for qualifying streets for reconstruction with CDBG funds, including income surveys for the streets' households (with the results indicating that 51% or more of the individuals living on the street are low/moderate income). He added that ADA improvements are automatically presumed to benefit low/moderate income people.

The second required public hearing will be held sometime in March. The advertisement for that hearing will announce the hearing date/time and outline how Council expects to expend the 2006 monies. The application is then submitted to DCED by the deadline in April. Mr. Geubtner added that once the funds are allocated, DCED allows that the budget can be modified (provided that the monies are spent in a timely manner).

Mr. Geubtner stated that there have been no significant changes in the CDBG program since last year.

Comments from Council and the public were then requested.

Russ Brezler, representing the New Hope Shelter, indicated that he had submitted a formal request for Council's consideration (a copy of their correspondence is also attached to these minutes). Mr. Brezler noted that he has reviewed the criteria for eligibility, and feels that these projects are fundable as a public service-type activity.

Mr. Geubtner indicated that he will review the request from New Hope Shelter for conformance with the federal regulations, and provide Council with a written report regarding eligibility. Mr. Brezler asked for a copy of Mr. Geubtner's report, upon completion.

Having no further business to discuss, the hearing adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda S. Knott
Administrative Assistant