

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING #1
FY 2021 “On Behalf Of” GIRARD TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
March 23, 2021

Call to Order

Chair Lindy Platz called for the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Present were: Supervisors Lindy Platz and Clay Brocius, Erie Co Planning CDBG Program Admin Joe Berdis, Zoning Administrator Tiffany Kramer and Roadmaster Ray Branthoover.

Joe Berdis started the meeting by explaining the purpose of the hearing was to provide information on the CDBG program; review the Township’s 3-year plan; and discuss needs of the community that could possibly be addressed with CDBG monies. Notice of this hearing was advertised in the Erie Times News on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 as well as posted on the township’s website.

Background Information

- Girard is “entitled” to receive an annual allocation of CDBG funds from the PA DCED pursuant to PA Act 179 of 1984 and since 1985 has received approximately \$3.8 million in CDBG funding. The township’s CDBG program is administered by the Erie County Department of Planning.
- The amount of funding the Township is available to apply for is not yet known. It is anticipated it will be the same as FY 2020 which was \$103,758. A portion of the allocation will be used for administration which will be provided by County Planning.

Eligible Activities

Joe explained that CDBG funds can be used to undertake a wide array of activities which include, but not limited to:

- water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer construction
- street rehabilitation/reconstruction
- sidewalk and curb replacement including removal/replacement of curb-cut ramps
- park/recreation improvements
- removal of architectural barriers to provide handicapped accessibility
- housing rehabilitation
- homeownership assistance
- fair housing activities
- public services (*not to exceed 15% of the grant allocation*)
- program administration (*not to exceed 18% of the grant allocation*)

National Objectives

Each “Eligible” activity must meet one (1) of three (3) “National Objectives”:

- Principally benefit low-to-moderate income persons.
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
- Meet a community development need having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet the need.

Of the three (3) objectives, the primary objective is to **Principally Benefit Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) persons**. (It is very rare to qualify a project under Slums or Blight or Urgent Need). A **LMI person** is an individual whose income is no more than 80% of median income for the area as determined by HUD, based on a four-person family and adjusted upward or downward for larger or smaller families.

Review/Update Three Year Plan and Solicit Input on Possible Projects

The Supervisors discussed their thoughts of what projects they would like to do in 2021.

- Improvements to Bateman Road
- Installing sidewalks down Westgate Drive

- ADA Sidewalks at Lake Erie Community Park

Joe will schedule the second public hearing soon.

Adjournment

The public hearing was adjourned at approximately 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindy Platz
Secretary