

March 16, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Lorain County, Ohio met this day in a regular meeting, in the J. Grant Keys Administration Building, 226 Middle Avenue, Elyria, Ohio, at 9:31 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioner Michelle Hung, President, Commissioner David J. Moore, Vice-President and Commissioner Matt Lundy, Member and Theresa L. Upton, Clerk.

JOURNAL ENTRY

Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Lundy gave an inspirational word

Clerk Upton called roll; Commissioner Hung, Commissioner Lundy & Commissioner Moore – All Present

The following business was transacted

HEARING

9:30 A.M. 1<sup>st</sup> hearing – CDBG FY21 – Ben Martens, LCCDD

Commissioner Hung said this public hearing is to discussion Ohio Development Services Agency grant that Lorain County has applied for. This falls under the Small Cities Development Block grant and we have here today, Ben Martens, Lorain County Community Development Department to give us a presentation.

Ben Martens said good morning. This first public hearing serves to identify the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) grant programs which the County is eligible to apply for under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This is a federally-funded program administered by the State of Ohio's Development Services Agency.

Mr. Martens said the county is applying for a 2 year Community Development Allocation program grant, approximately \$570,000. Eligible Projects include: street replacement, water supply, drainage, and sanitary sewer improvements, park acquisition and improvements, demolition of unsafe structures, neighborhood facilities, and rehabilitation of housing. He said Lorain County currently has a Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP) grant, we cannot use Allocation funds for Home Repair activities. All activities must be designed to benefit low- and moderate-income persons or aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight.

In the past Lorain County has replaced streets, built an addition to a senior center, ADA modifications to a restroom at a fire station, park, and community center, sewer lines, ADA compliant street crossings, funded Meals on Wheels, generator and ADA doors at senior center, home repairs, as well as assistance in building the Sheffield Township fire station. He said the set aside programs are a competitive program and must be submitted with the Allocation Grant with the Neighborhood Revitalization - \$750,000 and Critical Infrastructure \$500,000.

Other programs that the County may apply for are:

Economic Loan - \$500,000

Economic Development Grant - \$500,000

Residential Public Infrastructure - \$750,000

Target of Opportunity Grant Program – amount varies

Downtown Revitalization - \$250,000

- Funding requests were mailed out February 24, 2021 and due back April 21, 2021
- No specific projects have been discussed to date
- March 25, 2021 at 10 a.m., a Community Development Implementation strategy (CDIS) meeting will be held virtually due to its size

Administrator Williams said there is no camera just audio, Commissioner Hung said we will pause for a moment.

Commissioner Moore asked if people apply this early, because you stated there are no projects yet. Mr. Martens said generally, not until after the CIDS meeting, which is next Thursday and that is when they meet with representatives from various communities to discuss the program and their ideas, answer question and generally after that meeting they will get funding proposals. He said the funding proposals are sent out ahead of time, so the various communities can begin thinking of what projects they may have that fit the eligibility requirements for the program.

Commissioner Hung said she is concerned if the sound is off, the public did not hear that, so let's please pause for a moment. Commissioner Hung said when we start back up, we will have Ben start at the Downtown Revitalization section. Hung said they are working on the picture, we will wait for a minute, we are still live.

Commissioner Hung said welcome back, we had a slight pause there while we worked through some technical issues in our control room and will have Ben Martens continue his overview and we will jump in, right were we left off at Downtown Revitalization.

Mr. Marten said in addition to the community allocation programs, there are set aside programs, they are competitive programs and includes the set aside programs, which are competitive programs and must be submitted with the allocation grant applying simultaneously with Neighborhood Revitalization - \$750,000 and Critical Infrastructure \$500,000.

Other programs that the County may apply for are:

Economic development infrastructure program for \$500,000

Downtown revitalization program for \$500,000

Residential Public Infrastructure program for \$750,000

Target of Opportunity Grant Program which these amounts vary

The funding requests were mailed to communities February 24, 2021 and due back April 21, 2021. He said to date, no specific projects have been discussed and there is a Community Development Implementation strategy (CDIS) meeting that will be held virtually due to its size on March 25, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Mr. Martens said the second public hearing will take place on May 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. and will provide the projects selected for the Allocation program grants, and any set-aside funding applications, the amount of CDBG funds allocated to each project, and identified national objective for that project. The second public hearing will also include a list of alternative projects, if a community allots Allocation funds to an unfunded competitive set-aside or an Allocation project is determined to be ineligible by ODSA. The authorizing legislation for the plan year 2021 Community Development Allocation Program will also be submitted for consideration on May 18, 2021. He said the PY 2021 Community

1<sup>st</sup> CDBG public hearing cont.

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Development Allocation Program participants are required to include a fair housing activity as part of the PY 2021 application and an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). The CDBG PY 21 allocation grant must be submitted to ODSA by June 16, 2021. He said this is an overview of the grant allocation program, competitive set asides and happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Hung said the funding request, can you please expand on that and who you mailed that too. Martens said it is both emailed and mailed to every City, Township, Village in the county that they serve, other than Elyria and Lorain. He said Elyria and Lorain are entitlement communities so the county does not serve them under this funding program, they have their own programs, getting money directly from HUD. He said they also send it out to other community organizations that deal with the type of projects that get funding. Hung said the Community Development Implementation Strategy meeting will be on line, so will you follow up with them by email including a zoom link, is this something the public can find on line, website. Martens said this is actually not a public meeting, it is a virtual meeting that is sent to the community participants and will be done after the outcome of this meeting.

Commissioner Lundy said it is important to point out, they receive phone calls from folks in Lorain and Elyria asking how they can apply, but it is important for them to know that they are entitlement cities, they do their own thing when it comes to CDBG. He said North Ridgeville was in our fold before, but didn't that window close, are they on their own. Martens said they are still under the county's service for CDBG grants and had conversations already with folks at North Ridgeville on the funding proposal and program, and they are pretty much looking forward to the CIDS meeting next week. Lundy said good, he was not clear on that and thought they were going on their own but still in the fold for us, that is good, thanks for clarification. Lundy said mostly we are talking townships in the county. Martens said Township, Villages, Cities – smaller cities and the last couple of funding cycles they have had projects in Sheffield Lake, Oberlin and Sheffield Township, one in North Ridgeville and his tenure with the county those are some of these places they have done work. Lundy said the cycles have changed, they use to be annually, now every two years and amount smaller. Martens said it use to be a 1 year grant program and after the 2017 cycle it became a 2 year cycle. He said 2017, they had a 2 year; 2019 a 2 year, which is our current grant and now applying for 2021, 2 year cycle and this is the grant that ODSA talked about doing away with the funding they put in because it was supposedly to go towards the set asides. He said they had a change of heart, at least for this cycle will have another allocation, as to whether or not there will be future allocations, he is not sure. Lundy said we use to have a yearly program, then when it became a 2 year program, the amount of funding was the same you would have received with a 1 year program, spread over 2 years, correct. Martens said to his knowledge it bumped up slightly and in his tenure, he came here in 2017, so he is not sure what the funding levels were previous to that, but since he has been here, the funding levels have maintained, steady, no uptick.

Commissioner Hung moved, seconded by Moore to close the public hearing. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as; Ayes: All Hung, Moore & Lundy / Nays: None  
Motion carried.

(discussion was held on the above)

**B.** There was none

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**C**


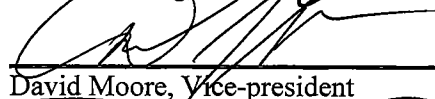

**CLERK'S REPORT**


\#1. Wednesday, March 17 at 9:30 a.m., Commissioners meeting

**JOURNAL ENTRY**

Commissioner Hung asked if there was any further business from any member of this board. Since there is no further business, this meeting is adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

The meeting then adjourned.

  
Michelle Hung, President )Commissioners  
)  
  
)of  
David Moore, Vice-president )  
)  
  
)Lorain County  
Matt Lundy, Member )Ohio

Attest: , Clerk  
Theresa L. Upton, Clerk