

**TOWN OF IOWA
PUBLIC HEARING - APPLICATION
FY 2020-2021 LCDBG PROGRAM**

**PLACE: IOWA TOWN HALL
DATE: APRIL 23, 2019
TIME: 5:00 P.M.**

Mayor Paul Hesse called the public hearing to order and informed those present that the purpose of the public hearing was to obtain citizen's input into what the priorities are, and what type of project should be considered for an application for funding for under the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. Mayor Hesse then requested that Mr. Richard Minvielle with the firm of Minvielle & Associates, Inc., make a few opening remarks.

Mr. Minvielle stated that a Citizen Participation Plan for these types of grants had previously been adopted and this public hearing is being held in accordance with that Plan. Mr. Minvielle first stated that the Louisiana Office of Community Development will be accepting Phase I of the application process, the Project Severity package by July 12, 2019 and will be accepting full grant applications later this year for FY 2020 funding by October 25, 2019 and for FY 2021 funding the full applications will be due by October 23, 2020. He indicated that this application will be used to fund FY 2020 grants and also FY 2021 grants. He said the State anticipates announcing the FY 2020 grant recipients somewhere around May, 2020 and the FY 2021 grant recipients around May, 2021.

With the potential for federal cuts in the LCDBG Program each year we are not sure what funding will be available in the future. However, based on recent years, it is anticipated that the State will be allocated approximately \$20,000,000 for FY 2020 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development of which the State sets aside approximately \$1,000,000 for their administration funds, \$1,200,000 for demonstrated needs projects, \$500,000 in a LaSTEP fund and \$3,000,000 for economic development projects. That leaves approximately \$14,300,000 available for public facility projects such as sewer, water and streets projects. There will not be any LCDBG funds available for housing rehabilitation and/or housing physical accessibility programs.

He explained that only single purpose grants will be awarded, saying the State will only allow an application for one particular project. All projects must at a minimum benefit 51% low-to-moderate income persons as defined by the Division of Administration.

He said even though he has not been associated with a project that required the displacement of families, he needed to say that should this occur under a LCDBG project, the grantee would need to provide counseling and referral services, assisting the displaced in obtaining suitable living quarters or business quarters, and assisting in the moving expenses.

He then stated that the funds for this years LCDBG program for public facilities projects are to be subdivided into six categories with the proposed ceiling amounts as follows:

- a) water systems addressing potable water \$1,000,000; and
- b) sewer treatment facilities \$1,200,000; and
- c) new sewer collection systems \$1,000,000; and
- d) existing sewer collection system rehabilitation \$1,000,000; and
- e) street improvements \$800,000.

He then discussed the rating system that one point will be awarded for applications/projects benefitting 60% or more low-to-moderate income persons. In addition, 50 points will be assigned for the project severity (need) and 10 points assigned for cost effectiveness. He stated that up to four (4) bonus points can be awarded; two (2) each if the applicant (a) pays all engineering fees if the project is funded and (b) another if the applicant pays all the applications fees and if the project is funded, the program administration fees. He said up to two (2) points can be awarded for application completeness and four (4) points for consolidation of two or more water or sewer systems into one larger system for a total of seventy-one (71) potential points.

He stated there are other categories that applications can be submitted and those categories and the maximum ceiling amounts are:

- a) Demonstrated Needs \$300,000; and
- b) LaSTEP \$500,000.

Under the FY 2020 & 2021 LCDBG program, a community can submit one public facility application.

Mr. Minvielle then discussed the FY '17 LCDBG Sewer Rehabilitation project (\$325,000) for a pipebursting project along Second Street and alley between Lambert and Bowers Street, the FY '14 LCDBG Sewer System Improvements project to upgrade the John Dal sewer pump station (\$318,670), the FY '09 LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation project north of the railroad tracks (\$275,900), the FY '06 LCDBG Sewer Rehabilitation project in the southwest part of the Town (\$292,930), the FY '03 LCDBG Multi-purpose Community Center project (\$600,000), the FY '01 LCDBG Housing Rehabilitation project (\$297,700), the FY '99 LCDBG Housing Rehabilitation project (\$551,700), the FY '97 LCDBG Economic Development project (\$635,000) and the FY '96 LCDBG housing program (\$592,075) and then said it was now in order to open the discussion up to potential projects to be considered.

The projects discussed included issues with certain sewer lines that need to be enlarged and sealed, the need for upgrades to sewer pump stations in the Town, street improvements and a new water well.

There being no other comments, the public hearing was adjourned.

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

Richard Merrill
Cynthia Mallett
Paul W. Wene
Sandra Turley