

October 18, 2017

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Called Session on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Martin County Governmental Center, 2nd Floor, District Courtroom at 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Those in attendance: Chairman Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Vice Chairman Tommy Bowen, Commissioner Ronnie Smith, Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, County Attorney J. Melvin Bowen, Clerk to the Board Marion B. Thompson and Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange.

Chairman Lilley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Ayers led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Smith provided the invocation.

Chairman Lilley welcomed everyone. Chairman Lilley acknowledged Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Ayers made the MOTION to approve the agenda, as presented, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Bowen. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

2nd Public Hearing Community Development Block Grant –Disaster Recovery Application

Vice Chairman Bowen made the MOTION to enter the 2nd Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) application, with a SECOND by Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

As stated during the 1st Public Hearing, Project Consultant Mike Barnette, of McDavid Associate, reiterated that Martin County received notification of the availability of CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding as a part of the Hurricane Matthew recovery program. The County can submit an application for up to \$1,000,000 for housing, community facilities, and public infrastructure. Hurricane Matthew affected forty-six (46) counties.

This public hearing was the second in a series of the two required public hearings. The purpose of the second public hearing was to outline the application contents to the public.

The CDBG-DR application will include the following direct housing benefit activities:

- Single family homeowner rehabilitation
- Single family homeowner reconstruction
- Mobile home rehabilitation
- Mobile home replacement

- Temporary rental assistance
- House repair cost reimbursement
- Flood insurance assistance

The CDBG-DR application would also include the following activities:

- Community Recovery activities such as libraries, senior centers, and health clinics
- Infrastructure in support of Housing and/or Community Recovery activities

Included in the grant would be ten (10) single-family homeowner rehabilitations, two (2) single-family homeowner reconstructions, two (2) mobile home repairs, two (2) mobile home replacements, anticipating possibly four (4) temporary rental assistance cases, one (1) homeowner reimbursement, and five (5) emergency assistance cases.

Mr. Barnette commented the selection process would include known applicant, as well as any others applicant obtained through a mass solicitation process, once funded. Municipalities in the County have received an invitation to participate in the program.

Mr. Barnette added the application would be for \$1,000,000. Two programs, the Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool-Disaster Recovery (ESFRLP-DR) and the Community Development Grant Program, would be married together.

Mr. Barnette stated all activities must benefit low-moderate income people or address an urgent need as the qualifying National Objective. The program would make every effort to minimize displacement and would provide displacement assistance, if needed. The application would not involve involuntary displacement.

Mr. Barnette stated the program would be a 100% grant to the County and does not require the County to commit any local funds, such as an administration fee. The County will serve as the lead agency and would engage the Town of Columbia for input into the program.

Comments were encouraged and the County would respond to all written comments received by the County Manager's office within ten (10) calendar days. The County would make good faith efforts to involve historically underutilized businesses and Section 3 individuals and businesses in the execution of the program.

Mr. Barnette added the application submission deadline would be October 20, 2017. A certified copy of the adopted minutes must be included in the application package. The Board was asked to authorize the Chairman to adopt the minutes of the public hearings when prepared by the Clerk for inclusion in the application package.

Public Comments

Vice Chairman Bowen inquired as to when the County would know whether the grant had been approved, after submission. Mr. Barnette answered in 45 to 60 days, Martin County should know if the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) funded the grant.

Commissioner Smith inquired as to how individual consumers responded preliminarily to the news about the potential of additional disaster recovery monies. Mr. Barnette stated all responses have been positive.

Adding, those not approved (approximately 4,200 individuals) for previous disaster recovery funding would receive notice of the availability of the funds from the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM).

Town of Bear Grass Mayor asked was \$8,000 the minimum threshold. Mr. Barnette replied grant applicants, who have suffered losses and/or damages over \$8,000, would receive first priority.

Mr. Roy Moore, of Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA), stated his organization administered the disaster recovery program earlier this year and wanted to know whether this program would covered victims of Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Barnette responded “Yes”. The ESFRLP-DR program would covered Martin County.

At the end of comments, Commissioner Smith made the MOTION to end the 2nd Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) application, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Bowen. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Commissioner Smith made the MOTION to approve authorizing the Chairman to sign the application paperwork and authorizing the Chairman to adopt the minutes of the two public hearings for the CDBG-DR, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Bowen made the MOTION to adjourn at 7:11 p.m., with a SECOND by Commissioner Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Chairman

Marion B. Thompson, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board