**Public Hearing August 23, 2021**

**Needs Assessment Plan for CDBG Grant**

Present: Mayor Stump, Rahn Abbott, Emilie Sayler joined at 6:00, Mike Walter, Z. Wade Hampton and Clerk, Ginger Galiger.

Guests: Craig Erickson, Gail Nelson, Lindsey Ericksen, Tammy Todd, Daniel J. Kenworthy, Stephanie Kruer, Dan Allhands, David Reintsma and Zachary Munns.

**Public Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.**

**Pledge**

Madison County has asked The Town of Sheridan to sponsor an application for a CDBG grant for the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center. The funding would be for remodeling the nursing home. The process requires 2 public meetings.

Craig Erickson led the meeting by explaining the purpose of this hearing. This meeting allows citizens to identify and discuss their community’s overall community development and housing needs, including the needs of low-and moderate-income persons, and to propose possible community improvement projects to meet those needs before the local government decides on what projects for which it will seek CDBG assistance for. The meeting is also to inform the public about the amount of state CDBG funds estimated to be available to Montana communities and the kinds of eligible activities to be assisted with CDBG funds.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program designed to help communities provide decent housing, suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents.

The State of Montana receives an annual allocation of federal funds from HUD for CDBG grants and program administration through the Montana Department of Commerce.

Allocated funding for 2021-2022 through CDBG is $6.9 million.

The CDBG program helps local governments complete drinking water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, community facilities (nursing homes or Head Start centers, for example) job creation and retention, and affordable housing development.

The State of Montana administers the CDBG Program through five distinct grant opportunities:

1. Planning

2. Community and public facilities

3. Economic development

4. Affordable housing development and rehabilitation.

5. Housing stabilization

The community and public facilities program are what makes TRMCC eligible for funding.

Gail Nelson from Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center spoke about the ADA compliance issues that the nursing home is dealing with. There is not more than one useable exit ramps in case of an evacuation to get the residence out of the facility in a timely manner. The sidewalks are uneven with deep cracks causing potential trips and falls. A portion of the facility has the original windows from 1964, this is not energy efficient and often times have to cover the windows with plastic to keep the cold out. They have 2 new boilers, but the heating ducts and pipes are very outdated and need to be replaced. They received a report from an ICAR assessment that indicates they are out of compliance in the laundry room. Soiled linens are side by side with the clean linens which can have contamination issues.

Lindsey Ericksen works for TRMCC and she also has a Grandmother there. Lindsey talked about her grandmother’s fear of falling out of the wheelchair when she is being taken outside for walks. When she has visitors, she is frazzled by the time she is taken to the outdoor visiting center. Lindsey stated that if you’re not careful, due to the uneven sidewalks it’s easy to tip a wheelchair over and folks that walk with a walker have to walk in the road.

David Reinstma is also employed there and work in fire and life safety. A smooth surface for the residence is a huge item. He tries to do patchwork to the sidewalks.

Rahn Abbott asked if they have issues with the air ventilation and who do they get their report from. Gail stated that the old part of the building needs updated to improve air ventilation.

Craig Erickson asked for a letter of support speaking to the distress of the fear that the residence have of falling. Tammy Todd is concerned with the infection control in the laundry room. Gail just received the report today and needs more time to assess the situation and come up with a solution.

Daniel Kenworthy asked, if the Town sponsors the application, does it limit the Town from applying for a grant and if so, for how long? Mayor Stump responded that it would for approximately 2 years depending on how long the project takes. The town had a CDBG grant for their CIP and Growth policy, and he doesn’t feel that there is a need for the Town to apply for one at this time.

Craig Erickson discussed the difference in the five district grants, stating that it would not affect the other programs. All the resources are here to be successful in the competitive grant.

Zachary Munns asked if there was any way to put a date on the project from start to finish? Discussions on the issues the County had with the remodel at the Madison Valley Manor and not being able to find a contractor to bid the project. A start to finish date is very unknown. Great West will know by October 15th, 2021, if their application was accepted so we should be able to start the design by late winter. The outside work wouldn’t be done until the end of next year.

Mike Walter agreed that there is a need but expressed his concern about the relationship between the Town and Great West, in the past. Mike asked if we could have WWC do the work? Craig said that would be between the Town and the County to decide. That decision needs to be made very quickly. An application grant takes about 80 hours to complete.

If anyone has additional questions or comments to contact Craig.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Approved: Mayor Robert Stump Attested: Clerk Ginger Galiger