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ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL –Public Hearing – FY 2014 CDBG Program

Dr. Foust, Chairman, called to order a Public Hearing in regards to the CDBG grant application at 6:00 p.m. at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, Erie, PA.

Mr. Joseph Berdis, Erie County Planning Department, gave an overview to inform the public that the County will be submitting an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development requesting \$644,341 in FY 2014 Community Development Block Grant funds for the projects the County proposes to carry out with these monies.

Mr. Berdis stated that the County is eligible to apply for and receive block grant funds each year from the state pursuant to PA Act 179 of 1984. The monies are to be used to help communities undertake projects which will address housing and community development needs while at the same time meeting the main objective of the program, which is to primarily benefit low to moderate income (LMI) persons. This is considered 80% of median income and primarily benefiting at least 51% of the persons to benefit from the project. He explained that the state sets the amount of block grant funds that the County can apply for each year. In accordance with Act 179, the \$644,341 in FY 2014 funds will be distributed as follows:

\$283,353 to Erie County to benefit *non-entitlement municipalities*
\$360,988 to benefit four (4) *entitlement municipalities*, which include:
Girard Township (**\$90,575**)
McKean Township (**\$85,064**)
North East Borough (**\$84,149**)
Edinboro Borough (**\$101,200**)

Mr. Berdis further explained that the non-entitlement communities are those communities in the County which are not eligible to receive state block grant monies or HUD block grant monies, but they can apply for a share of the County's block grant monies. Of the 38 municipalities in the County, 29 are considered non-entitlement. They are as follows:

Albion Borough, Amity Township, Concord Township, Cranesville Borough, Elgin Borough, Elk Creek Township, Fairview Township, Franklin Township, Girard Borough, Greene Township, Greenfield Township, Harborcreek Township, Lake City Borough, Lawrence Park Township, LeBoeuf Township, McKean Borough, Mill Village Borough, North East Township, Platea Borough, Springfield Township, Summit Township, Union Township, Union City Borough, Venango Township, Waterford Borough, Waterford Township, Wattsburg Borough, Wayne Township, Wesleyville Borough

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The County is also responsible for administering the Block Grant Program of the four entitlement communities. These four communities meet the criteria, primarily being that they have populations of 4,000 or more and they are considered distressed. They are:

Conneaut Township – *opted out of CDBG Program*
Corry City – *administers their own CDBG Program*
Edinboro Borough
Girard Township
McKean Township
North East Borough
Washington Township – *opted out of CDBG Program*

The two HUD CDBG entitlement municipalities of Erie County are:

Erie City – *administers their own CDBG Program*
Millcreek Township – *administered by the Erie County Dept. of Planning*

Mr. Berdis stated that since 1985, Erie County has received over \$11 million in block grant funds to benefit the non-entitlement communities, and just over \$10 million to benefit the four entitlement communities, for a total of \$22,217,725 in state block grant funds. He further stated that the Erie County Department of Planning also administers the HUD block grant funds for Millcreek Township, which to date total \$4,590,056. This began in 1998 when Millcreek Township became a direct HUD entitlement municipality after the population hit 50,000+ persons.

Based on input from the public and from municipal officials, it is proposed that the \$644,341 be used for the following projects:

Non-Entitlement Municipality Projects

\$79,677 – Union City Municipal Authority Phase II South Street/Second Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project (*replacement of approximately 275 feet of 10” diameter sanitary sewer main with 18” diameter PVC pipe; 55.5% of persons benefiting from this project are LMI*)

\$73,000 – Fairview Township Water Authority Birchard Drive Water Line Replacement Project (*replacement of approximately 500 feet of 2” diameter galvanized water main with new 6” diameter ductile iron pipe, and installation of a fire hydrant; 53.3% of persons benefitting from this project are LMI*)

\$79,676 – Union City Borough Route 97 Storm Sewer Construction Project (*installation of approximately 450’ of 48” diameter storm sewer pipe in Union City Borough; 59% of persons benefitting from this project are LMI*)

Entitlement Municipality Projects

\$81,515 – Girard Township Honeybrook Circle Road Rehabilitation Project (*rehabilitation of Honeybrook Circle, the main road – 3,650 feet - in Imperial Point Mobile Home Park, including milling, minor drainage upgrades and resurfacing the road; 73.4% of the persons benefiting from the project are LMI*)

\$40,000 – McKean Township Countryside Mobile Home Park Recreation Improvement Project (*recreation improvements at Countryside Mobile Home Park to include construction of two 24’x30’ picnic pavilions, installation of sidewalk, purchase of picnic tables and grills; 69% of the persons benefiting from the project are LMI*)

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\$36,558 – McKean Township Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Project (*rehabilitate at least two (2) single family owner occupied homes in McKean Township*)

\$32,000 – North East Borough Lincoln Street Water Line Replacement Project (*replacement of 990 feet of 4” diameter cast iron water line with 6” diameter ductile iron pipe; CDBG funds will pay for materials, construction provided by NE Borough Water Dept. employees; 60.8% of persons to benefit from the project are LMI*)

\$43,734 – North East Handicapped Accessible Curb-Cut Ramps Project (*construct approximately 20 handicapped accessible curb-cut ramps at various locations in NE Borough; project will primarily benefit the disabled and elderly who are presumed by HUD to be LMI*)

\$91,200 – Edinboro Borough Monroe Street Reconstruction Project (*reconstruction of Monroe Street from Rt. 6N to Cherry Street, approximately 1,800 feet; removal of existing pavement & grading, installation of 6” sub-base, 4” base course, and 1.5” wearing course; installation of approximately 1,000’ of 15” diameter HDPE storm sewer pipe & 12 inlets; 61.86% of persons to benefit from this project are LMI*)

\$86,981 – Program Administration (*NOTE: This amount represents 13.5% of the total grant. The state allows up to 18% for administration. This includes, but is not limited to, preparing applications, conducting public hearings, completing project environment reviews, bidding of projects, project and contract management, labor compliance, submission of all necessary reports to DCED, and ensuring compliance with all federal and state program regulations.*)

Mr. Berdis did note that there is a requirement in the application process that three year block grant plans be completed for the County and the four entitlement communities, and they are on file at the Planning Department if anyone wishes to review them. He stated that later this evening, Council will have the opportunity to pass the resolution approving the application and its submission to the state no later than January 3, 2015.

The public hearing adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

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ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

Dr. Foust, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, Erie, PA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Mazin Al-Sahlani gave the invocation:

“I am glad and honored to be here on this night. I have been given only one minute but this is a great opportunity to mention God and the way of God. In the name of God, the beneficent, the merciful. Praise to God, the Lord of world, most gracious, most merciful, Master of the day of judgment. We worship you and we seek help from you. Guide us to the right path, the path for those you bless them not those who have been astray. All people, I created you male and female to know each other not to fight each other. But the one who will be honored and the one who will be blessed by the sight of me, the one who is more righteous. Help another one for goodness and piety and don’t help another for violence and sins, all people, the family of God, and God will love the one who serve his family. Amen. Thank you very much and may God bless this gathering and bless all of you.”

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ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dr. Foust, Chairman
Mr. Leone, Vice Chairman
Mr. Breneman
Mr. DiMattio
Mr. Fatica
Mr. Horton
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Joseph Maloney, CPA
Sue Ellen Pasquale, General Accounting Manager
James Sparber, Finance Director
Kathy Dahlkemper, County Executive
Gary Lee, Director of Administration

**HEARING OF
THE PUBLIC**

Randy Barnes, Harborcreek Township; Mr. Barnes talked about economic development accountability. He discussed the \$6.9 million spent on the inland port project and the report on actual monies spent. \$3 million was a County loan. Of that money, his concern was the fact that over 10% was listed as “miscellaneous”. He asked Council if there was a line in the County budget that said “miscellaneous”. He stated that he did not feel that Council or the administration would bring a budget forward with a line item of “miscellaneous” that was 10% of the budget. He wanted to know why, after five months, would Council be satisfied with a line item in that budget that was listed as “miscellaneous”. He wanted to know if it would be unfair for the taxpayers or Council to ask exactly what is “miscellaneous” in this budget. He stated that there were no jobs created from this project, except for DevelopErie and their creation of jobs. Of the \$3 million loan, almost 30% was spent on staff time. He further stated that \$1.4 million was used to buy real estate, which is what it was assessed at, but then had to pay \$2.4 million to pay extra for the land. He feels that there needs to be some accountability with DevelopErie. He asked if Mr. Maloney could work with the County Controller to get these records and find out what “miscellaneous” is in their budget.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

There were no minutes set for approval. Dr. Foust explained that it takes some time to get the minutes finalized and ensure that all numbers are reconciled from the budget meeting.

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
AND/OR HER
DESIGNEE**

Mrs. Dahlkemper discussed an article in the newspaper about marine sanctuaries. She stated that she has talked to some of the Council members about this and she wanted to invite Council and the public to attend a presentation on December 9, 2014, at Hirt Auditorium, by representatives from NOAA. Marine Sanctuaries are 14 in the United States and its territories. There is only one in the Great Lakes in Thunder Bay, Michigan. For 20 years, the opportunity for any new designation for marine sanctuaries has been closed, but just reopened this past summer. She had the opportunity to go with Jake Welsh of the Planning Department to Thunder Bay in the fall and learned a lot about marine sanctuaries and the opportunity that Erie County could possibly have to put a nomination in to become a designated marine sanctuary area. It will take a lot of community effort and a lot of community grassroots support to make the application that will be looked at. Mrs. Dahlkemper stated that there are more shipwrecks off of Erie County’s coastline than there are in Thunder Bay.

Mrs. Dahlkemper further stated that they finished their last public hearing on the Public Safety radio system and the need that the community has in this area. She commented that she looks

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forward to working with Council to find the way to finance this that is in the best interest of the citizens and how important this is in terms of saving lives. Two weeks ago, Buffalo was hit with a snowstorm that was expected to hit Erie County and it was predicted by many that if that storm hit Erie County, the system would have crashed and who knows what that would have resulted in. Time is of the essence to continue to move this forward.

Dr. Foust stated that Council will be meeting with the consultants on December 16th at noon and will have one more opportunity to ask the consultant pointed questions. Dr. Foust stated he communicated with his colleagues via email that he would like to do that before this year is out and he felt that Council can hit the ground running mid-January and wrap up decisions as to where Council would prefer to go.

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Mr. Fatica stated that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 25, 2014, and agreed to move the following ordinances to the agenda: New Business – first readings of Ordinance Number 151, 152, and 153, the possible adoption of Resolutions 64 and 65, 2014, and the possible reappointment of one individual and possible appointment of two individuals to fill various board and authority seats, along with the sale of parcels from the repository.

**PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Mr. DiMattio reported that the Personnel Committee did not meet as there was nothing on the agenda.

OTHER REPORTS

Mrs. Loll recited the following statement: “We have heard from athiests and many different beliefs have stood before us to start our meeting with a kind word or invocation. In the history of this great nation to allow all religions and beliefs to worship, or not, as they wish, it was never the intent of the founding fathers to not allow any individual or group of people to believe as they desire. Our country was built as individuals and families who immigrated to our nation. They brought all beliefs with them. They have been given the right to be free to worship as they please. The immigration of people from different countries has brought our nation together. Joining with talents and abilities of all has made this nation what it is today. We have fought wars to keep this land free and our ideals intact. I am asking that we do not tell anyone that they must not or cannot worship or say a prayer. Thank you.”.

**Motion to Amend
Agenda**

A motion to amend the agenda by moving Ordinances 151 and 153, 2014, to a second reading was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 151, 2014 –
Public Health
Rev. Revenue &
Exp. & Creation
Of Line Item**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 151, 2014, “2014 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$6,577 and Creation of *Computer and Other Supplies* Line Items for Tuberculosis Grant Bureau”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 152, 2014 –
Amending the
Admin. Code**

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 152, 2014, “Amending Article II, Section 5(IV)(4) of the Administrative Code of Erie County Previously Amended by Ordinance Number 56, 2014”.

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**Ord. 153, 2014 –
Approving Amended
LERTA Ord.
For McKean Boro,
Twp., and Gen.
McLane SD**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 153, 2014, “Approving an Amended LERTA Ordinance for McKean Borough, McKean Township, and the General McLane School District”. This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Res. 64, 2014 –
Appr. The FY 2014
CDBG Application**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 64, 2014, “Resolution Approving the FY 2014 CDBG Application and Authorizing Its Submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development”. This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Res. 65, 2014 –
Appt. of Firm to
Perform Single
Audit for Erie County**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 65, 2014, “Appointment of Firm to Perform Comprehensive Single Audit for Erie County and Related Funds for the Year Ending December 31, 2014”. This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**BOARD/AUTHORITY
APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Leone moved to reappoint Kathleen Keys to a second three-year term on the Erie County Library Board. This was seconded by Mr. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Leone moved to appoint Steve Beam to a first five-year term on the Erie County General Authority and the Erie County Community Services Financing Authority. This was seconded by Mr. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Leone moved to appoint Paul Causgrove to fill a vacancy on the Erie County Children & Youth Advisory Board. This was seconded by Mr. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

SALE OF PARCELS

Mr. Fatica moved to approve the sale of parcels from repository for unsold property at index number #24-008-066.0-001.80. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
