

Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: February 3, 2015

Date Submitted: January 20, 2015

To: Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Board

From: Robert Presnell, County Administrator
Tommy Baker, EMS Director

Subject: Public Hearing for CDBG Grant Application

Statement of Issue:

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the purchase and renovation for an EMS facility requires two Public Hearings to move forward with the grant. This is the first of two required Public Hearings to hear input from the Commission and the public regarding application to the CDBG program.

Background:

The Commission contracted with Capital City Bank to purchase and renovate the Thomas Motor Cars building for an EMS facility, contingent on the award of a grant from the CDBG program. The Commission appointed a Citizens Advisory Task Force to hear comments and input from the public regarding this application. The Citizens Advisory Task Force met on January 8, 2015 and voted to seek funding to build a new EMS facility on the grounds of the hospital. The Citizens Advisory Task Force is an optional item in the grant process. The vote and comments by the Citizens Advisory Task Force are recommendations and the project requires a vote by the Commission to move forward with the project and submit a grant application.

Analysis:

The purpose of this first public hearing is to receive comments from the public and from the Commission regarding application to the CDBG program for funding of a new EMS facility or continuing the efforts to purchase and remodel the Thomas Motor Cars facility. The second public hearing will be required to review the actual grant application and make any changes to the application before a grant is submitted. It is anticipated that the grant cycle will open for applications in March 2015. Both public hearings and approval of the application must be completed prior to the deadline to continue this process and

meet the grant application deadline. Application for a new facility can likely not be completed in time for the March 2015 grant cycle and would likely be deferred until the 2016 application opens.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact for the public hearing process.

Options:

1. Approve continuing the process to apply for a CDBG grant to purchase and renovate the Thomas Motor Cars property.
2. Do not approve.
3. Board direction.

County Administrator's Recommendation:

Option 3

Attachment(s):

1. Public Hearing Notice

PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY OF GADSDEN
February 3, 2015

Gadsden County is considering applying to the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a FFY 2014 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for up to \$750,000. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive comments from the Public and the County Commission relating to the application for funding under the CDBG program to fund the purchase and renovation of a facility to house Gadsden Emergency Medical Services operation. This Public Hearing will be held at the County Commission Meeting room, 9 East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL 32351 on February 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

Funds from the grant must be used for one of the following purposes:

- To benefit low and moderate income persons;
- To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
- To meet other community development needs of origin having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The categories for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization or economic development and include such activities as acquisition of real property, loans to private for profit businesses, purchase of machinery and equipment, construction of infrastructure rehabilitation and energy conservation. Additional information regarding the range of activities that may be undertaken will be provided at the public meeting. For each activity that is proposed, at least 70% of the funds must benefit low and moderate income persons.

In developing an application for submission to the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Gadsden County must plan to minimize the displacement of persons as a result of planned Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities. In addition, Gadsden County is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons.

The public meeting is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, you are entitled, at no costs to you, to the provision of certain assistance.

In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Facilities Management Office, 1-B East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL 32351, by written request at least 48 hours prior to the proceeding. Telephone: (850) 875-8665 or 850-510-7842.

If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public meeting, please contact the County Administrator's Office at (850) 875-8650 at least five days prior to the date of the meeting and a language interpreter will be provided.

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