

March 4, 2010

At a Special Called Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Jim R. Wilck

Absent: William G. Fore, Jr.; Don C. Gantt, Jr., Howard F. Simpson; and Mattie P. Wiley.

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sharon Lee Carney, Director of Economic Development; Andre Gilliam, Community Development Planner, Commonwealth Regional Council; Beverly Booth, Commissioner of Revenue; Linda W. Campbell; and Jennifer Wall.

Andre Gilliam called the public hearing to order, and stated that the public hearing is a requirement by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program process. He then presented a program overview, and said that two public hearings must be held to notify citizens of the details of its CDBG application and proposed activities. He said the first is to overview the process, and the second is more detailed to the project.

Mr. Gilliam said the CDBG Program funding is authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and has three national objectives: to benefit low- and moderate-income citizens; to eliminate slum and blight in neighborhoods; and to address urgent community development needs.

The CDBG Program has been administered by Virginia since 1982 and serves non-entitlement localities. Virginia is required to develop an annual Program Design that includes the funding distribution method; statewide funding for 2010 is approximately \$21,573,424. Mr. Gilliam explained the breakdown of funding; competitive grant funding equals approximately \$11,156,222 of that \$21.5 million.

Mr. Gilliam then discussed the CDBG Program schedule; open submission proposals are accepted from January 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010, with the exception of Urgent Needs funding which are accepted until October 31, 2010. He stated March 31, 2010 is the deadline for Competitive Proposal. Mr. Gilliam reviewed and discussed the types of open submission programs and the requirements of each:

Planning grants; Construction Ready Water and Sewer projects; Community Economic Development; Community Development Innovation; and Urgent Needs.

Mr. Gilliam reviewed the types of Competitive Grants (CIG) and the requirements for each: Comprehensive Community Development; Economic Development; Housing; Community Facility; and Community Service Facility.

Mr. Gilliam then reviewed Prince Edward County CDBG Projects in the past: Prince Edward Sheltered Workshop; Prince Edward Marketed Shell Building Project; Prince Edward Community Center; Prince Edward County (STEPS) Workforce Education Center; and Prince Edward County SMI Steel Products Water/Sewer Extension.

Mr. Gilliam said Prince Edward County is seeking CDBG assistance for the Granite Falls Conference and Hospitality Training Center.

Mrs. Sharon Carney, Director of Economic Development, stated information regarding the Granite Falls Conference and Hospitality Training Center is in its preliminary stages; she said another public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 12:00 noon, for specific questions regarding the project.

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, asked the Board to share any other ideas for the CDBG program in the future that would qualify in the Low- to Moderate Income range. Mr. Gilliam said the “moderate” range would, in his opinion, qualify 60-65% of Prince Edward County citizens. He said many people do not feel that they qualify for “low- to moderate-income” programs.

There being no further comments or questions, the public hearing was closed at 6:26 p.m.