



BOOK 37
Pages 88-91



AMHERST COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board of Supervisors

Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
District 2
Jennifer R. Moore, Vice-Chair
District 5
David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor
District 4
Tom Martin, Supervisor
District 1
L. J. Ayers III, Supervisor
District 3

MINUTES

April 17, 2020

Meeting Convened - 4:00 PM

County Administrator
Dean C. Rodgers

County Attorney
Michael W. S. Lockaby

I. Call to Order

At an electronic Emergency Meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors held on April 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (by remote): Chair Claudia D. Tucker, Vice-Chair Jennifer R. Moore, Supervisor David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor Tom Martin and Supervisor L. J. Ayers III. (arrived late)

ABSENT: None

STAFF (by remote): County Administrator Dean C. Rodgers, County Attorney Michael W. S. Lockaby, and Legal/Executive Assistant Regina M. Rice

OTHERS PRESENT (by remote): EDA Director Victoria Hanson, Community Development Director Jeremy Bryant and Finance Director Stacey Wilkes

Chair Tucker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Tucker advised that the purpose of the meeting is to inform the public about the availability of DHCD COVID-19 funding to localities and to answer questions and receive comments about previous Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) spending in Amherst County.

Chair Tucker said that the nature of this meeting would make it impractical and unsafe for members to assemble a quorum at a single location, and that the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved the purpose of meeting to address the emergency.

ROLL CALL

Supervisor Pugh - AYE

Supervisor Martin - AYE

Vice-Chair Moore - AYE

Supervisor Ayers - ABSENT

Chair Tucker - AYE

II. Public Hearing

COVID-19 Urgent Need Community Development Block Grant

EDA Director Victoria Hanson presented the following information:

The Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) is making available current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to small cities, towns, and rural counties to respond to local needs related to COVID-19 response. DHCD will provide up to \$6,550,000 in Planning and Open Submission (including urgent need) CDBG funding during the 2020 funding cycle to address issues created or worsened by COVID-19.

Applications for CDBG funding must be submitted by localities. In order for Amherst to obtain funding that may be needed in our community this public hearing is required. (See Attachment 1)

Ms. Hanson explained this public hearing will allow citizens the opportunity to ask questions about the COVID-19 Urgent Need funding and to comment on Amherst County's past use of CDBG funds over the past several years. She said that in order for specific funding to be approved, a second hearing is required for each application for COVID-19 response funds.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Ms. Gloria Witt of Madison Heights, Virginia addressed the Board and asked if the grant would cover gaps in internet accessibility in Amherst County. She also asked if this would be an opportunity to move that agenda forward to offset some technology needs from an educational perspective and if the grant could be used for those types of things.

Ms. Hanson replied that DHCD wants to be creative to use those grant funds but has not talked about broadband per se but certainly about establishing facilities for Telemedicine or community centers to provide broadband for public access.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Supervisor Martin said he would like EDA Director Hanson to ask DHCD that question proposed by Ms. Witt.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board requested EDA staff to schedule another public hearing at the April 21 meeting to address specific funding applications.

AYE: Mrs. Tucker, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin and Mr. Ayers

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Use this Link to join the electronic meeting. Click on it or copy/paste into your browser:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/816784061>

III. Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Martin and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

AYE: Mrs. Tucker, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin and Mr. Ayers

NAY: None

ABSENT: None



Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk

Amherst County

COVID-19 Urgent Need Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Electronic Public Hearing #1

April 17, 4 pm

The public can join the meeting online at this link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/816784061> or dial in by phone (646)749-3122 Access Code: 816784061.

DHCD is making available current CDBG funding to small cities, towns, and rural counties to respond to local needs related to COVID-19 response. See pages 62- 63 of the 2020 Virginia CDBG Program Design for a listing of eligible localities.

DHCD is also closely monitoring availability of funding for all localities through the recently passed CARES Act (federal stimulus) and will post additional details when this funding becomes available.

Goals:

1. Assist units of local government and communities respond to the health and economic impact of COVID-19 by supporting Urgent Need recovery activities.
2. Collect best practices and create a network of resource sharing.
3. Provide up to \$6,550,000 in Planning and Open Submission (including urgent need) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding during the 2020 funding cycle to address issues created or worsened by COVID-19.

About the Initiative: Using Program Year 2020 CDBG funds, in accordance with DHCD's 2020 CDBG Program Design, DHCD can immediately accept applications for COVID-19 related Planning Grants and for COVID-19 related Open Submission applications, including Urgent Need Applications. All application information in the Program Design applies to the COVID-19 environment, except as noted below with an asterisk (*) and further described at the end of this document.

Planning Grants	Community Organizing, Needs Assessment, Project Planning	\$10,000 - \$45,000 per grant, up to \$1,000,000
Open Submission Program: Urgent Need Grants	Community Service Facilities, and Public Services. Preference for projects that can benefit 51% Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) benefit.	\$1,000,000 Total. Requests for Community Service Facility grants will not exceed \$800,000.
Open Submission Programs: Innovation Fund, Construction-Ready Water and Sewer, and Community Economic Development Grants	See 2020 Program Design. Focus on solutions to COVID-19-related circumstances and on circumstances made worse by COVID-19. Must document 51% LMI benefit.	Up to \$4,650,000 Total. See Program Design for individual project type caps
	TOTAL	\$6,650,000*

DHCD is particularly interested in supporting communities with their COVID-19 related projects that can be implemented and deliver benefits quickly. Following are examples of projects in which DHCD is hearing of immediate community needs, but please approach DHCD with all project ideas and needs, as these examples are not all-encompassing:

Homelessness and Health Care:

- Construct (longer term) or rehab and retrofit (shorter term) structures that can be used as (for example) shelters for persons experiencing homelessness (especially shelters needing upgrades and retrofits to increase ability to follow social distancing best practices), or testing centers, emergency inpatient health care facilities, outpatient treatment clinics, and quarantine sites;
- Cover acquisition costs for buildings to be used as outlined above;
- Cover acquisition costs for equipment that can be used for telemedicine purposes;
- Provide supportive services, on-site, at supportive housing residences; and
- Provide emergency payment of rent and utilities (paid directly to the landlord and utility provider over a limited period of time) related to homeless assistance.

General Community Support in the COVID-19 Environment:

- Develop programs to keep individuals employed, for example, transitioning food and beverage industry workers into providing delivery services for food banks and pharmacies;
- Repurpose manufacturing equipment or facilities to create Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) products;
- Cover acquisition costs for digital equipment that would allow units of local government to conduct public business online; and
- Create small business assistance grants/loans for communities

Amherst County's Past Use of CDBG Funds: During the past several years, Amherst County has used CDBG funds as follows:

- Old Town Madison Heights Sewer Upgrades : \$500,000 in CDBG funds to upgrade the Old Town Madison Heights 82-year-old sanitary sewer system.
- Old Town Madison Heights Main Street Revitalization project: \$1,110,634 in CDBG funds for a comprehensive multi-phase project including housing rehabilitation, building façade improvement, blight removal, relocation of telephone and power poles located in the right-of-way, and replacement of retaining walls along Main Street.

Are there any questions or comments?

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Virginia Funding Opportunities for COVID-19 Response

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Project Development Notes:

DHCD strongly recommends working with local social service agencies, your Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless providers, health departments, and other providers to identify specific local needs. COVID-19 projects will not 'count' towards local funding caps, although DHCD will closely assess progress on funded projects before committing additional funds. Applications will be submitted through CAMS and will be collected and reviewed bi-weekly or more often if necessary.

Localities planning to apply for COVID-19 CDBG funding are strongly urged to contact Matt Weaver at 804-371-7011 or matthew.weaver@dhcd.virginia.gov early in the planning process and to send a letter of interest to DHCD (attach letters via email to Matt Weaver).

** This is the minimum funds available. DHCD is working to utilize existing funds for this announcement and will evaluate if more current year funds can be provided and what additional funds will be available with CARES Act (Stimulus funds).*

*** Planning and Open Submission applications are accepted through the year until September 30, 2020. Competitive CDBG funding could assist COVID-19 response efforts in addition, including Public Services as described above, although the competitive application closes April 24, 2020. As stated in the 2020 CDBG Program Design, a new second round CDBG Competitive Grant Cycle will be opened September 1, 2020, closing November 30, 2020, if funds are available.*