

## **Citizen Participation Public Hearing and Board Meeting – April 8, 2019**

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Village Board meeting began at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, 613 Main St., Colfax, WI 54730. Members present: Trustees Halpin, Davis, Wolff, Jenson, M. Burcham, K. Burcham and Village President Stene. Others Present: Mark Mosey, Kathy Stahl, Ted Dezurik, Lynn Englehorn, Jon Strand with CBS Squared, Public Works Director Bates, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger.

**All public participants to sign the sign in sheet** – The sign in sheet was passed around and confirmation was made that all attendees had signed in. Village Stene asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**Identification of total potential funds and Basic Overview of CDBG program** – Strand explained the project and the block grant program. The Wisconsin Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is a federal agency that provides funds to states in what is called block grant type programs. The state then takes the funds and provides them to communities as block grants. In Wisconsin it is called CDBG, Community Development Block Grant Program. In order to qualify for funding the community must meet certain income guidelines. The program that the Village is applying for is the CDBG- Public Facilities grant. Some of the other programs available are Economic Development, Housing for low to moderate income individuals (best known for) and emergency assistance programs.

**Eligible CDBG activities** - The Public Facilities Project is designed to fund infrastructure projects that have an overall community benefit and helps all households in the Village of Colfax, however it has a particular impact on low to moderate income residents because the sewer bill consumes a good portion of their disposable income. So anything that we can do to assist in keeping those rates from continuing to increase is beneficial to those residents.

The project that we are discussing tonight is to stabilize the wastewater treatment plant pond lagoon or levee which is a berm that is built around to lagoon ponds and separate it from the Red Cedar River. The berms purpose is to keep the septic or sewage that is not treated, process it until it is ready to be discharged into Red Cedar River. The erosion issue was identified by the US Army Corp of Engineers in December of 2014. In 2016 the comprehensive research was compiled with options to be considered. One option was to construct a treatment facility which was estimated to cost \$10 million dollars and there would be several factors that may or may not be able to be met. The other option is to stabilize the levee or bank using rip rap. The funds would be almost \$1.7 million. The Army Corp would fund 65% and the Village would be responsible for approximately \$630,000 which is 35% plus additional engineering that would not be covered. With the match funds possibly coming from CDBG grant funds, the Village would still have an approximate \$35 to \$40,000 responsibility.

**Presentation of identified community development needs, including housing needs** - Any concerns for the Village housing needs should be mentioned at this time. This particular grant does not include housing; however there are funds available for housing needs.

**Identification of any community development needs by public, including housing needs and the presentation of activities proposed for CDBG application, including potential residential displacement** Strand clarified that the Village will not be reducing any of the housing stock for the project as the land that is part of the project is all vacant land.

**Citizen input regarding proposed and other CDBG activities**

Stene – wanted to give a little bit more detail regarding the erosion issue. The problem was actually noticed in 2010 when there was a larger rain event and a several hundred feet of the river bank washed away. The Village has not just ignored the problem, but we have been trying to find some sort of financial help to complete the project.

Ted Dezurik asserted that the awareness of the problem has been known and he looks forward to the solution and this sounds like a very good one.

Strand added that the application needs to identify what ramifications there would be if the project does not happen. The DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers have notified the Village that if nothing is done there could be a catastrophic type of failure. As soon as the erosion reaches the top of the bank and the pond water starts to follow that path it would happen fairly quickly and the entire levee would be compromised in the breach spot. The contents of the lagoon ponds would empty into the river which consists of raw sewage and would cause harm to aquatic life, residents near river, recreational type sports, lakes and fisheries downstream, etc. This type of event would cause a lot of economic hardship. There would be additional cost to get a temporary sewage facility to protect the residents and avoid a health issue and millions of dollars to construct a new facility.

Ted Dezurik asked what the timeline for the project? Strand replied that the US Army Corp of Engineers has to complete the design plan and then there would be the bidding process. The Village and the funding have been the hold up. If the funding was awarded, the process would allow for construction next year.

Kathy Stahl asked if there is a designation for the project that indicates the number of years of an event that may cause a breach. Strand responded that this particular project is closely related to what is referred to is a flood event, however, the issue at the streambank is actually how fast the water is flowing which then causes the erosion of the streambank. What would be the happen if the project does not start until next spring? Strand responded that the project would then be an emergency event causing many concerns such as health and safety of residents. Strand asks how the project would change if an emergency event did occur. Strand and Stene responded that the project would need to be redesigned and built. Whatever would be needed to fix it would need to be done.

Margaret Burcham mentioned another item of concern with the Village Hall and the Library in reference to accessibility to our building in reference to available funding. Strand responded that there is potential funding for accessibility type projects.

**Adjourn** – All agenda items were completed, and the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Gary Stene, Village President

Attest: Lynn Niggemann  
Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer