

Sherman Eyes CDBG Funds To Aid In Wastewater Project

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SHERMAN - The village of Sherman held a public hearing via ZOOM recently to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2020 program year.

While no members of the public were permitted to be physically present in accordance with Gov. Cuomo's executive order, they were able to join the meeting, as well as ask questions and make comments.

Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder explained that last year's consolidated funding money was delayed because of the COVID pandemic. Therefore, the current applications are for funds dated in the year 2020.

"So, we will be discussing community development needs and the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant applications for the 2020 year," Meeder said.

Meeder presented information regarding the village's proposed \$6.2 million wastewater treatment plant project, and explained how \$1,250,000 in CDBG funds would decrease the cost to the village.

Presently, the village has a commitment of a USDA Rural Development grant for \$2,265,000 and a possible WIIA grant for \$980,500, Meeder said. Since WIIA pays 25% of the net cost, the receipt of CDBG funds would decrease the WIIA grant money.

Nevertheless, Meeder noted, if the village receives CDBG funds in the amount of \$1,250,000, and the WIIA grant is adjusted to \$668,000, the village will save a substantial amount of money overall.

Meeder summarized the wastewater treatment plant situation by illustrating that, with the present grant money of \$3,245,500, the village would be responsible for paying \$2,941,500. With a CDBG grant of \$1,250,000, the village would be responsible for paying \$2,004,000, she said. This money would be paid over a period of 37 years at 2.125% interest, saving the village \$1,363,296 over the 37 year term of the loan.

Meeder said this represents an annual savings of \$36,845, or approximately \$100.67 for each of the village's equivalent dwelling units (EDUs).

Meeder then went on to explain the Community Planning Grant application which is due on March 5. The \$50,000 Community Planning Grant, with a village match of \$2,500, would be used for evaluation of village owned properties on Main Street, she said.

The evaluation would include building condition surveys, a determination of the best use of the buildings and an environmental quality review which is needed for the required State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), Meeder said. She told those in attendance that the village-owned properties that would be evaluated include 130 West Main St. 129 West Main Street, 123 West Main Street and 121 West Main Street.

"There are additional grant opportunities that the Village will be pursuing through the NYSOCR/CDBG," Meeder said. "The village of Sherman wants to apply for the Housing Rehabilitation Program to assist residents of single-family dwellings that meet the income requirements."

The grant maximum is \$500,000 over nine to 10 houses for each grant cycle under the Housing Rehabilitation Program, Meeder said. When asked by a meeting attendee about the income specifications of the program, Meeder outlined the maximum allowable income, depending on size of household.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, Meeder reiterated that these proposed applications are for the 2020 program year. Future Village CDBG applications could include a Public Infrastructure Grant of up to \$1million for the Stormwater Improvement Project and a Public Facilities Grant for \$300,000 towards the future building improvement projects, she said.

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