

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CDBG PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF CARRABELLE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 15, 2009
4:30 PM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish - Chairman, Noah Lockley Jr. – Vice Chairman
Pinki Jackel, Cheryl Sanders

Commissioner Putnal is representing the Board at an Eastpoint Water and Sewer meeting

Others Present: Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

Public Hearing (4:30 PM)

Chairman Parrish called the public workshop to order and stated the purpose of this workshop was to discuss 2008 disaster recovery CDBG grants.

Mr. Pierce further explained that public comments will be heard today on the mitigation funds, \$299,946 as a result of the storms in 2008 and that the County's preferred project is the raising of the Jim Odom/Pine Log Bridge. Mr. Pierce also explained that the secondary project was to use some of these funds on Alligator Point but FEMA will be assisting the County with the Alligator Point road so he doesn't recommend the mixing of CDBG and FEMA funds. Mr. Pierce stated that Mrs. Debbie Belcher, the County's CDBG grant writer, is here to explain the use of the funds, deadlines, and procedures.

Debbie Belcher stated that of the 299,946 funding 14% has to be used for rental rehab and replacement and even though she has not received any applications as yet, it is her understanding that DCA will allow the County to budget this money and then the process of identifying structures could begin.

Commissioner Jackel and Mrs. Belcher discussed the January 15 deadline for the application, and that it could be up to a year before the funding is actually available. Mrs. Belcher also explained some of the problems presented by this gap in time and recommended that the County develop some type of housing plan that place income and rental level restrictions, similar to DCA and SHIP programs restrictions, on rental repaired with these funds.

Mrs. Belcher stated that DCA is aware that no rentals may be found and instead of losing the 14% she recommended that the County request that all of the funds are used for the bridge elevation project.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she knew many homeowners that suffered damage but would not be able to benefit from these funds because their houses are not rentals.

Commissioner Jackel and Mrs. Belcher discussed how long the owner of the rental would be restricted from selling the property if they used these funds to repair their building and possible

options the County could put in place if they wanted to allow an owner to sell the property before the allowed length of time.

Mrs. Belcher explained that the bridge elevation project is good for the City of Carrabelle because it is part of their storm evacuation route, is in the County's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), and qualifies as a low income area based on HUD's information. She stated that she has also contacted the City of Apalachicola who doesn't have any requests for these CDBG grant funds.

Chairman Parrish opened the floor for public comment.

Chairman Parrish asked if any representatives from the City of Carrabelle would like to speak on this matter; there was no response from the floor.

A resident of the City of Carrabelle spoke in favor of raising the bridge.

Mel Kelly, the former mayor of the City of Carrabelle, stated the importance of highway 67 as evacuation route for the City of Carrabelle.

Tamara Allen, a resident of Carrabelle also discussed the importance of Highway 67 as an evacuation route

Andy Smith, of the Apalachicola Bay and River Keepers, stated some of the discussions his agency has had with the North West Florida Transportation Corridor regarding the evacuation route and appreciated the Board's action on this matter.

Debbie Belcher stated that an approved Resolution is needed along with 10 day published notice stating which project the County has decided to move forward with and explained the other steps that would have to be followed before the January deadline.

Chairman Parrish expressed his desire to find rentals houses that could possibly use this funding.

Adjourn (4:48 PM)

There being no further comments Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting.

Joseph Parrish, Chairman – FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts