

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, ROBERT L. PROUD AND DAVID H. UIBLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.**

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE DECEMBER 4, 2013 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-worksession.aspx>.**

**Informal Session began shortly before 11:30 a.m.**

**THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:**

- 1. Issue - Community Development Block Program Grants (CDBG), Andy Kuchta, Director, Clermont County Community and Economic Development and Annette Decatur, Grants Coordinator, Clermont County Community and Economic Development...13-0514-003**

Discussion – Mr. Kuchta provided handouts and described the changes to the program formerly known as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which has been restructured and renamed the Community Development Grant Program (CDGP). Mr. Kuchta further explained that previously there was a set formula allocation to each county, the program allocation to each county has been significantly reduced and there are now competitive set-aside grants in addition to the community development allocations. Clermont County's formula community development allocation has been reduced to \$432K for FY13 from \$612K in the previous year.

Ms. Decatur explained the competitive set-aside grants are broken down into three categories: neighborhood revitalization, downtown revitalization and critical infrastructure and that each of these new grants is limited to \$300K each maximum.

Mr. Kuchta described the changes to the criteria and requirements of the eligible expenditures stating that this has made the selection process much more difficult when dealing with limited funds and a large number of applications. Mr. Kuchta defined the placement of the criteria, a filter the Board could use to weight the applications for the allocation of funding for the CDGP to make applications easier to categorize into one of the set-asides or the formula funds for evaluation.

Mr. Kuchta noted that the changes in the CDGP program were made to ensure that formula allocation fund activities are having a greater impact for the low to moderate income (LMI) citizens. The activities for the formula allocations should directly impact the LMI population throughout the County, funding programs such as centers for handicapped, fair housing, public services, homeless prevention and facilities.

Competitive set-aside grants should be used for target areas and specific projects within smaller areas in the communities. The County may submit up to two grant applications for the neighborhood revitalization or the downtown revitalization set-aside grants; however only one critical infrastructure grant may be submitted at a time. The scoring for these competitive grants have a set structure and are outlined in the attachments.

The attached spreadsheet is a complete list of all activity names with outcome measurements, in addition to previously approved projects containing allocation amounts, and previously awarded grant amounts for each village or township annually 1983 through present. Mr. Kuchta believes that taking into consideration the historical data of the types of projects that have been successfully funded in the past may aid the townships and villages in the application process.

CED would like to hold the first public hearing in regard to the CDGP in January 2014. This should allow plenty of time to meet with, educate and answer any questions townships and villages may have about the program changes. CED would also like to attend the Township Association meetings before the applications are due to the County in April. The Board will have to select and submit grant application, to the State at the beginning of June.

Commissioner Humphrey stated he would like to see the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) continue as part of the formula grant program, he feels this is a good platform and benefits the County as a whole.

Commissioner Uible noted that he was impressed with the details of the history chart provided and looking at the data that the Village of New Richmond has done a great job in securing funding, also noting that the Village of Batavia has applied for and received the least amount of grant funding.

Commissioner Proud asked if there was limit to the number of project applications the County can submit. Ms. Decatur stated a the County is eligible for up to four projects per community development allocation.

There are links set up to information on the CED web page available at <http://www.clermontcountyohio.biz/cdbg.aspx> for additional details on the plans and eligible activities.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – CED to schedule the first public hearings in January of 2014.

**2. Issue - Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant Program, Andy Kuchta, Director, Clermont County Community and Economic Development and Annette Decatur, Grants Coordinator, Clermont County Community and Economic Development...12-0626-003**

**Discussion** – Andy Kuchta gave a quick update on the Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant Program, it is nearing \$115K left in non-matching funds toward the removal of blighted structures across the county. There are several applications still pending that are being reviewed for the remaining funds on a first come, first serve basis. Ms. Decatur noted that the completion of work deadline has been extended; the original date of December 31, 2013 has been pushed to May 31, 2014. Annette Decatur stated the County will need to notify the Ohio Attorney General about any matching funds requests by December 31, 2013. 67K in matching funds requests had been submitted to date.

Mr. Kuchta stated that CED is also conducting discussions with the Clermont County Engineer and the Transportation Improvement District (TID) with regard to TID filing applications for some residential homes in combination with road projects.

Commissioner Proud questioned if Monroe Township inquired about any demolitions. Ms. Decatur stated Monroe Township has submitted one application; however they have some issues with the processing of that application that are being addressed.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** –

Commissioner Humphrey noted at the last Informal Session the Clermont County Auditor

requested the Board reconsider her letter dated July 1, 2014 regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Deputy Registrar operations. The Board has affirmed they are not interested making the BMV deputy registrar into a Special Revenue Fund.

Commissioner Proud asked if there is an early termination clause in the current contract between the Auditor and the State or if it is terminated by mutual agreement. Mr. Rabolt stated that he believes the current contract states, the State must also agree to the early termination of the contract which currently the State has not agreed to.

Mr. Rabolt has forwarded a letter to the State with the estimates of indirect costs to continue to use our facility, the cost of the lease, furniture, etc. at the request of the Board. We are awaiting a response from the State.

**Adjournment**

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

Absent

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**EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT**

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**DAVID H. UIBLE, VICE PRESIDENT**

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**ROBERT L. PROUD, MEMBER**

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**STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

1/15/14  
**DATE APPROVED**