

A Public Hearing by the Town Of Peru, Town Board was held on Monday February 22, 2010 at the Peru Town Hall. Those present were Mr. Pete Glushko, Supervisor; Mrs. Susan Polhemus, Councilwoman; Mr. Kregg Bruno, Councilman; Mr. Brandy McDonald, Councilman; Mr. James Douglass, Councilman; and Mrs. Kathleen Flynn, Town Clerk.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:28 PM by Mr. Glushko, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to afford an opportunity for discussion and comment on the proposed application and to obtain the views of the citizens, public agencies and other interested parties on the needs of the town for the Office of Community Renewal's CDBG application.

Mr. Glushko explains to the community that this Public Hearing is purely informational this evening. Laura Oswald from the Laberge Group was in attendance to discuss this proposed project and grant.

Ms. Oswald informs members that specific requirements for this grant are that there has to be two public hearings. One is informational and the other will be to hear concerns and comments from the public. The town board will need to address which direction that they wish to take. Two projects were discussed at the last meeting.

Ms. Oswald and the Laberge group are targeting the Septic system at South Acres Mobile Home Park. The other grant in question was presented at the last meeting by Mr. Scott Campbell from Friends of the North Country- targeting housing rehabilitation for low or moderate income households.

Ms. Oswald explains that the town can only apply for one grant of this type, per year. After the board decides which direction they feel would be best assist the community, then a second Public Hearing specific to the project is held.

There was no immediate comments from the Public.

Discussion follows-

Mr. Glushko-Asks if the project is a complete replacement of the existing septic system. Answer- Yes, with the design written to provide expansion.

What is the need? Currently there are 80 families that reside in the South Acres Mobile Home Park. This need has been dictated by the Clinton County Health Department. It has been deemed as essentially dangerous to the community. If is not replaced, the County will essentially have to close it. The owner was not aware of this problem when it was purchased.

Mr. McDonald-How many systems (right now) have to be replaced.

John Kanoza-Health Department/ Environmental Health Unit. Explains that the Mobile Home Park is permitted for 82 lots. Each septic system serves two homes. Currently there have been 2 to 4 system failures per year. Mr. Phung (owner of the park) has been very compliant and replaced between 8 and 10 systems in the past three years. Mr. Kanoza explains this as a band aid approach

Ed Schiffler-Town resident. States that the residents that are currently living in the Park are there because they need to be there and are probably under stress already. He states that he feels badly for them. However, he also encourages the board to be careful in assisting a businessman that will most likely make money off of this project.

Mr. Glushko states that the town's involvement will not be of a financial nature, more so acting as an agent for the grant. Laberge is doing most of the paperwork, and Mr. Phung will be the person responsible all additional financial aspects of the grant. Mr. Phung will have to show proof of how he will be paying any leftover balance from the grant, if it is approved.

Mr. Bruno likes that idea that Mr. Phung will be paying out of pocket for additional expenses. He and Mr. McDonald state that they would like to see how he will finance the difference. Ms. Oswald states that Mr. Phung plans to discuss this at the next Public Hearing.

Joe Akey (friend of Mr. Phung) explains that the holding tanks will remain and they will need to be pumped periodically. He states that the assessed value of the property is 2.2 million dollars.

Don McBrayer-Town resident. Asks if there are other issues with this park that have not been brought forward. Mr. Kanoza know of no other problems or issues with this park.

Jean Schiffler- Town resident. Refers to the cost of the project at \$700,000.00. She would like to know if the grant will hold him accountable to finish the project as the maximum allowable money to be obtained is \$400,000.00. Ms. Oswald answers "Yes". Part of the grant details a source of funding.

Ms. Tedford- (inaudible) Are there any other interested parties for this grant. Mr. Glushko refers to the Friends of the North Country. He states that they approached the board last year, but time did not permit the application.

Mrs. Polhemus-Refers to the maximum grant opportunity of \$400,000.00. Specifically asks if Mr. Phung has another plan if the maximum is not obtained. Ms. Oswald states that the issue is that he does not have sufficient funds to cover the entire project. Potentially, the park could face closure, and Mr. Phung is aware of this.

Kathy Degraw-Resident of the Mobile Home Park. Informs members of the board that she loves where she lives. She moved in, unaware of the circumstances. She states that she loves her neighbors.

Bud Shufelt- Resident of the Park for over 25 years. He states that it is a great place to live.

Motion by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. McDonald to close the Public Hearing at 7:04 PM. Ayes 5 Nays 0 *Motion Carried*

_____ *Supervisor* _____ *Councilwoman*

_____ *Councilman* _____ *Councilman*

_____ *Councilman* _____ *Councilman*