

**Yancey County**  
**Blue Ridge Elementary Sewer Line Extension Project**

**October 9, 2017**

**Yancey County, NC**

The Board of Commissioners for Yancey County held a public hearing on October 9, 2017 for providing explanation and description of the 2017 North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Community Development Block – Infrastructure Grant (CDBG-I). Members present were Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Mark Ledford, Commissioner John Stallings, and Commissioner Jeff Whitson.

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Whitson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stallings and the vote to approve was unanimous. Chairman Riddle then opened the public hearing and recognized Ms. Michelle Ball.

Michelle Ball, Regional Planner of High Country Council of Governments was present to discuss the purpose of the public hearing for Yancey County's CDBG-I School funding application. Michelle stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to obtain citizen's views and to respond to funding proposals and answer any questions posed by citizens. Michelle also stated that the public hearing must cover the County's community development needs, development of the proposed activities, and a review of program compliance before the submission of the County's CDBG-I funding application to the state of the North Carolina.

Yancey County proposes requesting funding from NCDEQ'S CDBG-I program for the Blue Ridge Elementary Sewer Line Extension Project. The purpose of the CDBG-I grant program is:

To improve the quality of life for low to moderate income people by providing a safe, clean environment and clean drinking water through water and sewer infrastructure improvements and extensions of service.

- To benefit a residential area where at least 51% of the beneficiaries are low to moderate income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- To perform eligible activities.
- To minimize displacement, and
- Provide displacement assistance as necessary.

For the fiscal year of 2017 the CDBG-I School funding available is expected to be \$ 4.5 million dollars and the maximum available grant is up to \$1.0 million. Applications for funding are received November 1, 2017 It is a one-time funding cycle.

The CDBG program is able to fund a wide variety of community development activities. The State of North Carolina has chosen to fund two activities: water and sewer infrastructure, and economic

development projects that lead to job creation or retention. The infrastructure program, or CDBG-I program can fund a range of water and sewer infrastructure and economic development activities, including, but not limited to the, following:

Water:

- Projects that resolve water loss in distribution systems.
- Projects that extend public water to areas with contaminated wells.
- Projects that extend water lines to areas with dry wells.
- Projects that assist with low water pressure in public water systems.
- Projects that regionalize two or more water systems.
- Project that rehabilitate or replace a water treatment plant.

Wastewater:

- Projects that resolve inflow and infiltration to collection systems and surcharges from pumps stations and manholes.
- Projects that extend public sewer to areas with failed septic tanks.
- Projects that rehabilitate a wastewater treatment plant to allow for greater efficiency/compliance with regulations.

Yancey County is seeking an amount in CDBG-I School funds not to exceed \$900,000 for the Blue Ridge Elementary Sewer Extension Project. The purpose of the County's request is to install approximately 7,000 linear feet of new sewer line to the new Blue Ridge Elementary School and the existing Cane River Middle School. Blue Ridge Elementary will consolidate three smaller schools: Bald Creek, Bee Log, and Clearmont, all three of which have unrepairable septic problems. The construction of the new school and subsequent connection to the municipal line will eliminate these on-going sewer issues.

A total of 100% of the CDBG- I funding will be used to benefit Low to Moderate Income (LMI) people. The project area in Yancey County has been determined to have an LMI rate of at least 51%. The Faculty, Staff, and students of Bald Creek Elementary, Bee Log Elementary, Clearmont Elementary, and Cane Rive Middle Schools will all benefit from the project and have been surveyed to determine LMI eligibility.

The range of activities covered by the CDBG-I funds for the Blue Ridge Elementary Sewer Line Extension Project includes:

- Construction.
- Engineering Design
- Construction Administration and observation.
- Legal activities.
- Surveying.

If Yancey County is awarded a CDBG-I grant, the County is required to adhere to federal procurement requirements and other federal regulations which include:

- American with Disabilities Act/Section 504 Survey
- Davis-Bacon & Related Labor Acts
- Adoption/Submittal of a Citizen's Participation Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of an Equal Opportunity Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Fair Housing Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Language Access Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Relocation Assistance Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Section 3 Plan
- Excess Force Provision

The State of North Carolina requires that if Yancey County is selected for CDBG grant funding that the County will certify that they will comply with the requirements of the general displacement and relocation policy for CDBG grant funding. This policy assists low to moderate income people with costs associated with relocation or displacement, should such relocation become necessary due to the project activities. CDBG funds can be used for those costs, if necessary. If no displacement and relocation will occur as a result of the proposed CDBG grant activity, then Yancey County confirms that during this public hearing.

In the past, the County has applied for and received for the following completed CDBG projects:

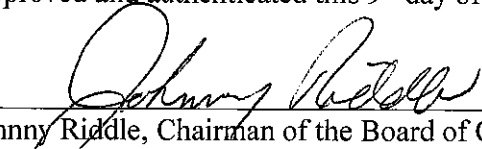
- Various CDBG Housing Projects throughout the years assisting upwards of 25 homeowners with substantial rehabilitation to their homes or outright replacement.
- The Yancey County Senior Center Project - \$500,000 awarded to assist in the construction of a new County Senior Center
- CDBG funding was received to help rehabilitate the Brown Dorm into the Mountain Heritage Center

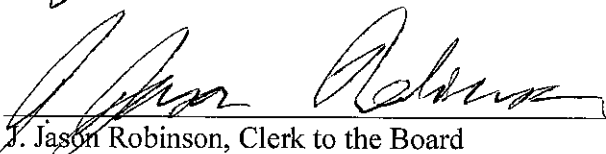
The County will submit its CDBG-I School program application for the Blue Ridge Elementary Sewer Line Extension Project on November 1, 2017. The CDBG-I School program application will be available for review during normal business hours at 110 Town Square, Burnsville, NC. Additional information is available from Jamie McMahan, Town Planner, 110 Town Square, Burnsville, NC 28714, (828) 682-3971. Should you have any complaints or grievances regarding the subject public hearing, they should be addressed to the addressee mentioned above within 10 business days or by October 23, 2017 and a written response to the written complaints and/or grievances will be sent by the County within 10 business days, where practicable.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stallings to close the public hearing and Commissioner Austin seconded the motion. The vote to close was unanimous

Having no further business Commissioner Ledford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitson and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved and authenticated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017.

  
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Johnny Riddle, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

  
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J. Jason Robinson, Clerk to the Board

(County Seal)

