

**Town of Pierceton**  
Public Hearing Minutes  
Pierceton Community Building  
November 13, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

**Purpose of Meeting**

**OCRA HELP CDBG-CV Construction Application - "Sidewalk Improvements"**

- The first of two public hearings.

**Present**

Council members Matt Brubaker, Tom Barker and Janet Castle. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn. Town Superintendent Casey Boggs. Town Marshal Jim Bumbaugh

- A sign-up sheet was passed around by MACOG to record the names of those present for the hearing.

**Presentation by Donny Ritsema from MACOG**

In 2021, Kosciusko County was selected to participate in a new program, Hoosiers Enduring Legacy Program (HELP), with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). The Towns of Pierceton, Mentone, and Pierceton signed on to participate in a year-long process to create Strategic Investment Plans (SIP) which outlined strategic investments to create a lasting legacy in their communities.

The SIP was adopted earlier this year, 2023. Since then each community has been working with OCRA and the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) to proceed with their respective eligible projects to apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-CV funds for implementation.

The Town of Pierceton has selected their sidewalk improvement construction project on School Street and Third Street to apply for CDBG-CV funds. This is the first public hearing to provide residents an opportunity to learn more about this project. The application must be submitted by January 21, 2024.

1. Goals and Objectives of the CDBG Program
  - a. The goals and objectives of the HELP CDBG-CV program is to help communities address their needs and respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic and create a lasting impact on the community.
2. Community Development and Housing Needs of the Applicant

- a. The construction grant supports the Town to respond to the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure residents have safe social distancing and walkable connections to the Pierceton Elementary School and Pierceton Park.
3. Proposed Activities for the Project and the Amount to be Requested
  - a. The construction grant will assist the Town to construct 6-foot wide sidewalks on School Street from the entrances at Pierceton Park and the Pierceton Elementary School to Third Street, and then on Third Street from School Street to Catholic Street.
  - b. The total cost for this project is approximately \$422,641.
4. Total Amount of CDBG funds available
  - a. Kosciusko County was awarded, as a participant in the HELP program, up to \$1 million in CDBG-CV funds to use for projects from the SIP. The County agreed the funds would be split between the three participating communities for their top projects.
  - b. The Town of Pierceton is requesting \$270,641 of CDBG-CV funds.
5. Amount and Source of Local Funds to be Expended on the Project
  - a. This program required the participating Towns to provide at least 30% of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recover Funds (CLFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) amount for the projects from their SIP. For the Town of Pierceton, that is approximately \$152,000.
6. Proposed Amount of Funds to be Used to Benefit Low- and Moderate-Income People (LMI)
  - a. Starting in September through October 2023, MACOG and the Town conducted an income survey to determine if the Town would be eligible for this grant program. Communities seeking CDBG grants are required to meet one of the three National Objectives, in this case it is to benefit 51% or more of Low-to-Moderate Income persons.
  - b. After consultation with OCRA and HUD, the project service area was determined to be the homes located within the surrounding area of Catholic Street, First Street, School Street, and Seventh Street. Given the project will benefit residents living in the immediate neighborhood, we had to do a Census Income Survey requiring us to survey 100% of the residents in the neighborhood.
  - c. Concluding the income survey, it was determined that the project service has approximately 52.1% of low to moderate income residents. If awarded, approximately \$141,003.96 of the grant funds will be used to benefit low-to-moderate income residents.
7. Notification of any Displacement Resulting from the Proposed Activities or Notification of No Displacement

- a. This project will not result in the displacement of individuals or businesses.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm.



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer