

The Maxton Board of Commissioners met in Special Work Session meeting for the purpose of focusing on Town grants with the following members present:

Mayor Gladys Dean  
Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Morton  
Commissioner Ray Oxendine  
Commissioner Sallie McLean  
Commissioner Vivian Morrison  
Commissioner James McClanathan

**Absent:** Town Attorney

**Staff present:** Town Manager Tatum, Town Clerk Roberson, Finance Director Tyndall and Police Chief McDowell

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dean gave the welcome, declared a quorum present and called the January 15, 2008 Special Work Session meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner McClanathan gave the invocation.

### WORKING SESSION SUMMARIES

#### 1. NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM GRANT

Status: The 2007 grant is active and we have applied for 2008 grant funds. This grant requires that a municipality have a population of at least 5,000. Therefore we must apply with a partner. The 2007 grant partner is Fairmont and the 2008 grant partner is Red Springs.

Grant Amount: \$37,500 per jurisdiction, \$75,000 total – Maxton’s allotment is \$37,500. Maxton’s contribution is \$1,500, plus application fee of \$50.00. The partner jurisdiction is expected to pay \$1,500 and ½ the application fee.

Total Grant per Recipient: \$5,000

Location: Scattered Sites

Purpose: This grant is for urgent repair only and all recipients must be very low to low income. It is not intended to bring house up to code. It is intended to prevent displacement.

Example of Repairs: heating and cooling, electrical plumbing, imminent structural problems, rotted floors, roofs, and other threats to life or safety.

How Recipients are Awarded: Rating process

Preference Categories: Large Families (5 or more), Single Parent Household (at least one child), Elderly, Handicapped, Elevated Blood Lead Levels (minor child age 1-8). Very- Very Low Incomes receive higher points.

Eligibility: Anyone who can accumulate points is eligible. Individuals (without children) under 62 are not eligible.

Rehabilitation Standard: North Carolina State Building Code and DCA Rehabilitation Standards

## **2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – GRAHAM AND HOOPER STREET PROJECT.**

Type of Grant: Concentrated Needs – These grants use CDBG-funded activities to revitalize - through improvements, preservation or development – a residential area. Concentrated Needs grants are competitive and this year grants of up to \$1,000,000 were awarded. The majority of the grant funds will be spent in the area of revitalization, including drainage upgrades and the balance will be spent on an innovation project to promote the Town of Maxton Police Athletic League (PALS) program. These are federal grant fund intended for expenditure in low income neighborhoods suffering blighted conditions only.

Town Innovative Project: PALS Center

Location: Graham and Hooper

A PALS center will be built in the target neighborhood in an effort to encourage youth participation. This grant can only be used in areas of blight and neighborhoods where 70% of the incomes are low to moderate.

Local Contribution: \$100,000 over a 30 month period - (\$40,000 comes back to town in salaries and equipment used to further this program)

Status: In the process of satisfying Funding Release and Grant agreement requirements. The process takes approximately 6 months. Expected to gain all approvals by April, 2008

Scope: Rehabilitation, Relocation, Street and Drainage, Water and Sewer, Housing Replacement.

## **3. CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND AND RURAL CENTER SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS**

CWMTF Grant Amount: \$2,523,683

Rural Center I & I Grant - Supplemental Grant Amount: \$435,300

Local Contribution: \$60,387

Project Cost: \$3,019,370

Status: This project is pending receipt of grant agreement documents.

Scope of Work: This project shall consist of the internal reconstruction of 27,650 lf of sewer mains, 617 ft of manholes and various point repairs. The total estimated project cost is \$3,019,370.00.

Purpose: This project reduces the amount of wastewater discharged into Shoe Heel Creek and the 03-07-55 sub-basin of the Lumber River Basin. Shoe Heel Creek (C-sw) has a good bio-class rating and is fully supporting although the creek had an excellent bio-class rating in 1996. Before the most recent Basin-wide Plan update, there was consideration of classifying Shoe Heel Creek High Quality Water. This project will help reduce inflow/infiltration into the sewer system by more than 0.30 MGD on average. I/I, in the past, has spiked as high 0.70 MGD on several occasions. The elimination of any discharge to Shoe Heel Creek will only enhance preservation of these waters.

#### **4. RURAL CENTER GRANT – ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT GRANT**

Grant Amount: \$30,000

Purpose: To make repairs at the Freight Building Restaurant

Type of Repairs: Refrigeration Systems, Floors, Painting

Status: Most repairs are complete, reimbursement request is pending

#### **5. NC STEP GRANT**

On December 20, 2006, the Town of Maxton and the Rural Economic Development Center entered into agreement for NC STEP Planning Investment as part of the Small Towns Initiative to bring greater prosperity and improved quality of life to North Carolina's small towns, especially those experience hardship posed by structural changes in the economy, devastation from natural disasters or persistent poverty. The Center granted the Town of Maxton \$20,000 for expenditures relating to the planning aspect of the Project, including training. The final award will be \$200,000.00. The citizen group will decide how the \$200,000 will be spent. All funds expended must be expended for economic development purposes.

As part of the Small Towns Initiative, the Rural Center announced the North Carolina Small Towns Economic Prosperity Demonstration (NC STEP). NC STEP is a three-year demonstration that targets economically distressed small towns, especially those faced with economic hardships due to structural changes in the economy and/or natural disasters. The demonstration has three primary goals:

1. To support economic recovery and revitalization in small towns.
2. To test a comprehensive model of capacity building, technical assistance and grant making to aid in revitalization efforts.
3. To provide information vital to the development of public policies that support long-term investment in the economic vitality of North Carolina's small towns.

NC STEP is designed to spur economic activity, innovation, and job creation in selected towns demonstration sites through a program of strategic resource investments; training scholarships, coaching assistance, planning and implementation investment grants, shared learning opportunities, and linkages to revitalization efforts across the nation and in other counties.

Maxton is partnered with the Rural Center as one of 20 demonstration sites across the state as part of this demonstration. It requires a commitment on the Town's part to participate in all aspects of the demonstration. We must commit to the minimum requirements and additional requirements that

may be added during the course of the demonstration. Minimum requirements that each site must agree to are:

1. Host a kick-off event to announce the demonstration award and to prepare the community.
2. Show that an inclusive community leadership group will participate in the development and implementation of the site-specific work of the NC STEP program, as broader demonstration activities, such as training, site documentation and evaluation.
3. Commit to an assessment and planning process designed in collaboration with the Rural Center.
4. Commit to participate in all required trainings and activities of the demonstration.
5. Have local government and community buy-in as the demonstration proceeds.

Maxton agreed to following terms:

1. Working with a steering committee or emerging leadership team, prepare for and host a kickoff event that announces the award and prepares the community for the work ahead in community leadership, assessment, planning, economic strategy development, and program implementation.
2. Working with a steering committee or emerging leadership team, develop and produce a town profile, with narrative and pictures.
3. Working with Rural Center staff and a coach assigned by the Rural Center, develop an inclusive community leadership team to lead the NC STEP efforts throughout the demonstration period.
4. Working with Rural Center staff and a coach assigned by the Rural Center, develop and facilitate implementation or an assessment and planning process designed to identify critical needs and community assets, define an economic strategy for the Town of Maxton.
5. Facilitate, coordinate, or provide support to ensure all task are completed within the planning investment phase of NC STEP.
6. Attend trainings and meetings and other activities as required.
7. Partner with the Rural Center to disseminate the information and lessons to small town leaders and policymakers.

Maxton has six committees:

1. Safety Committee
2. Education Committee
3. Housing Committee
4. Business Development Committee
5. Youth Committee
6. Senior Committee
7. Infrastructure Committee

Status: Most groups are still identifying primary goals. Infrastructure is made up of Chairman's from the first six groups and has just begun the planning process.

## **6. PHASE II DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT GRANT - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION T-21 GRANT/MAXTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

DOT - Grant Amount: \$25,000 - Remaining \$16,598

Maxton Historic Society Grant Amount: \$50,000

Project Cost: Last Estimate Received 7/07 - \$96,000

Local Match: \$29,402 – Powell Bill Funds

Location: Wilmington Street

Scope: Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk, Driveway, Catch Basins replacement, Curb Elevation, Paving, Installation of Handicap Ramps, and Placing 48” Tree Grates

Note: This grant was awarded in 2003. For various reasons, it sat without action. It was scheduled to be completed during 2007. However, budget constraints necessitated an extension.

Status: Awaiting plans from Progress Energy.

**7. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES LEAGUES, INC. – POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (PALYEP)**

Amount: \$10,000

Eligible Costs: Travel, Equipment Supplies, Contracts/Consultants, other (as approved)

Purpose: To operate a boxing program for the PALS youth.

Status: In progress

**8. NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION – (INTENDED FOR USE BY THE MAXTON POLICE ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITIES LEAGUE) – THE JCPC PROGRAM**

Amount: \$13,450 (\$10,000 Grant Portion and \$3,450 In-Kind)

PURPOSE: Grade improvement, Increase in School Attendance, Reduction of Runaway Behavior.

Eligible Population: 5-18 male and female

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) funded programs are expected adhere to procedural requirements mandated by the Department of Justice. All programs shall:

1. Maintain liability insurance, client safety and protection;
2. Develop and implement a Behavioral Management and Discipline Policy plan for all participating juveniles;
3. Develop an emergency plan for the protection of program participants, staff, interns, volunteers, and the community;
4. Develop and implement policies of Appropriate Care and Treatment;
5. Ensure that juvenile rights are preserved while participating in a JCPC program activity; and
6. Obtain informed consent on the *Publicity or Acknowledgment of Treatment* form created by the program.

Status: In progress

Activities: Various sports, tutoring, trips and counseling.

**9. NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR’S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM**

Grant Amount: \$73,348

Local Contribution: \$9,916

Purpose: Hire an office whose primary function is to concentrate on traffic; speeding and moving violations in an effort to reduce traffic accidents and promote safe driving.

Status: Activation pending receipt of grant documents.

Funds: Can only be spent on salary, equipment, uniforms, etc.

**Additional Information**

Town Manager Tatum stated that other grants have been applied for which have not been approved yet. Once they are approved we will come back. Some of the grants will supplement other grants.

Town Manager Tatum stated that Council has already been briefed on the PARTF grant.

\*\*Add water tower for discussion at the next Board meeting. Town Manager Tatum stated that staff talked with Hobbs Upchurch and Associates concerning the water tower. Not having it in use causes us to spend thousands of dollars when we go on the Laurinburg-Maxton system.

We have been in discussion with The Wooten Company to apply for a Clean Water Trust Fund Grant for storm water drainage.

\*\*Add Embarq and ITS to the next meeting for discussion. At this time there is no phone at the Rescue Building due to Embarq and ITS having concern over which company has jurisdiction and the problem of the address of the building. It has been reported to John Deese that we are progressively working to get phones at the Rescue Building.

**Others Matters of Interest/Announcements - None**

**Adjournment**

Mayor Dean entertained the motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Emmett McLean motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Morton seconded. The vote was unanimous.

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Mayor Gladys Dean

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Town Clerk Jacqueline B. Roberson, CMC