

**TOWN OF MALONE
PUBLIC HEARING
June 28, 2017**

A Public Hearing was held on June 28, 2017 at 5:00 PM for discussion relative to the 2017 NYS-CDBG Program.

PRESENT: Howard Maneely ----- Supervisor
 Ed Lockwood ----- Councilor
 Mary Scharf ----- Councilor
 Jack Sullivan ----- Deputy Supervisor

RECORDING SECRETARY: Deborah Hutchins, Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Lillian Anderson-Duffy, Town Attorney
 Jean Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
 Josh Davis, Malone Telegram
 Mary Fredenburg, Malone
 Candace Gadway, Malone
 Bentley McQuinn, Malone
 Molly Manson, Constable
 Kris Charland, North Bangor

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Maneely called the Public Hearing to session open at 5:00 PM. At this time he asked the Town Clerk to read the Public Hearing Notice as follows:

The Town Board of the Town of Malone will conduct a Public Hearing at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at the Town Office, 27 Airport Road, Malone, NY, to discuss local housing, community, and economic development needs, and to consider application(s) for funding from the 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program administered by the NYS Office of Community Renewal.

The Town is considering an application under the 2017 NYS-CDBG Program with respect to financing assistance to help “microenterprise” business owners with start-up and expansion projects that promote small business development to benefit the commercial tax base in Malone and provide job opportunities for low and moderate-income residents.

The public is invited to ask questions or offer suggestions for the proposed funding or other community development needs of the Town and Village of Malone. Individuals with special needs who wish to attend should contact the Town Clerk’s Office at (518) 483-4740 so that any necessary arrangements can be made regarding accessibility to the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Maneely then introduced Mr. Jim Thatcher of C.T. Male Associates. Mr. Thatcher stated that the Town (with strong support from the Village) has engaged in his firm to assist with a grant application in the Community Development Block Grant Program. This involves federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development which is filtered through New York State and distributed to smaller communities that do not automatically get allocations of these of funds. He stated that Malone has a good track record in this program and has benefited over the years from the program. The activities that the Town can use these funds for range from affordable housing, rehabilitation of homes and apartments, home ownership programs, economic development, and infrastructure-water and sewer projects. This particular session is to discuss the Town’s interest in microenterprise business (business with 5 or fewer employees and the owner is active in full time running of the daily operations). Applications will be received from small businesses for start-up or expansion plans. These funds are for “soft” business expenses (working capital, furniture, equipment, inventory, job training, etc.). The grants range from \$5,000 to \$35,000. There is some business owner equity required as match and runs about 10% and there is business planning and skills training required. The Town’s grant potential is \$200,000 with most of the funds going back in to the community other than some administration funds. This application is due July 28, 2017 and the announcements typically come in December. There is a two year period to take applications from businesses, do the training and distribute funds. These grants are for any microenterprise business location within the Town (including the Village – downtown corridor). Mr. Thatcher then asked for questions from residents present.

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Candy Gadway asked if the Town was supporting this grant. Councilor Scharf responded that the Town has passed a resolution approving submission of an application.

Candy Gadway also stated that she and a couple others are planning to start a new business and have looked at a location downtown but questioned if other locations with the Town would also be eligible. Supervisor Maneely stated the business would need to be anywhere in the Town (or Village). She also requested confirmation that the owner does not need to reside in the Town, just the business itself does and this was confirmed as correct. She further questioned if new businesses were eligible and Mr. Thatcher stated that out of the \$200,000 grant, approximately half (less administrative expenses) would be required for new start-up businesses.

Mr. Thatcher stated that he is currently gathering business ideas that he can use in the grant application (profiles, etc.). Candy Gadway then stated that she and her associates are interested in building their business as a private mental health/wellness clinic next to the Village Furniture building. Bentley McQuinn then stated that there is much work to be done at this building location though such as clean-up, asbestos removal, etc. He stated that the asbestos process is holding them up from purchasing this building. Mr. Thatcher stated that an architectural or engineering firm (his included) can help with looking at the building and addressing these issues before purchasing. Candy Gadway stated that she sees this opportunity as a win-win situation being that they would be bringing a vital service to the community as well as contributing toward revitalizing the downtown community. She further stated that any financial help they can get would help reach this goal sooner.

Molly Manson then spoke and stated that her business does not need a storefront as it is a web based business from her home. She asked if she has to apply at this time or can she apply at a later date. Mr. Thatcher stated that he would prefer as much information (as in anecdotal ideas) that he can get at this time to include with his grant application. He stated that a group of profiles is better. He further informed Ms. Manson that there are survey packets available here this evening if she would be interested in completing.

Mr. Thatcher stated that Malone has a good track record with this type grant. Supervisor Maneely and Councilor Scharf discussed the last grant application and new businesses that started up. Councilor Scharf stated that there were 11 grants the last time and only 1 business did not continue to operate (6 were new businesses).

The Public Hearing Session was closed at 5:58 PM with no further comments being taken.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DEBORAH A. HUTCHINS, TOWN CLERK