

**PUBLIC MEETING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR PER-  
Monday, January 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.  
Plevna Community Center.**

Mayor Thielen called the meeting to order at 6:02PM

Mayor/Council Present: In person - Gary Thielen, Michelle Gray, Kyle Vennes, Promise Miller, Jason Oberlander

Also present: Ashley Martin, Clerk/Treasurer  
Rylan Limesand - Project engineer from Brosz Engineering  
Jaime Shanks - Community Development Specialist from Eastern Plains Economic Development

Members of the Public Present: Jason Castleberry, Clint Dietz

Jaime Shanks with EPEDC out of Glendive. - We have decided we are going to divy things up so I will be handling all of Fallon and Carter County and be the point person on any kind of grant work. I'm still learning. I started in October so I'm still learning. So with this grant, it's called the CDBG, it's a community development block grant. So your proposal for the sewer system falls within the guidelines for this grant. So tonight we're just kind of looking for public opinion on what you think of the sewer system. It sounds like it has been camera-ed.

Rylan - So what this money would be used for would be for Plevna to have an engineer write a preliminary engineer report, PER is what we call them. With that PER, that PER could be used to apply for infrastructure funding through the state. What we are looking at right now is sewer projects. Right now Plevna's sewer main is composed mostly of clay tile pipe. So typically with that we look into options of 1) open cutting and replacing with new PVC pipe. or 2) do what's called a CIP (cured in place pipe). With that it's actually felt that is soaked in resin and they blow it through the pipe and then they run stieve or hot water through it to cure it and then it's like a brand new pipe. The old pipe can go away and it's fully structural. So those would be the two options we would explore based on cost and that kind of stuff. Then there's some other stuff that goes along with the PER, as far as community development stuff like population increase, that kind of stuff, planning for the future. We always plan for the 20 year future so if we decide any sewer lines need to be upsized due to the population increase, very doubtful that will happen, but then those areas we would have to replace instead of doing the lining. There are certain things that liner can't go through we'd have to look at and that kind of stuff. So with the camera footage that's going to be pretty easy to go through and know exactly what needs to be done. But the first step is getting funding for us to be able to write that, and that is what this grant is for.

Jaime - Yes that is what this grant is for, so Rylan and I will be working on this grant on the behalf of the town for the funding.

Rylan - Can you remind me what the dollar amounts are for this grant?

Jaime - Well it goes up to, I think this one goes up to \$50,000 but let me verify that one. Here it is. Up to \$500,000

Ryala - That's for the construction part of it though. For the PER it's, I believe it's either \$40 or \$50,000. So this is a planning grant. The process is you'd get the planning grant. Then we would complete the PER. Then we would use the PER to apply for a construction grant and if we receive the construction grant that portion would be up to that \$500,000, depending upon your sewer rates you could get more. But that is something we would look at in the PER. The state has a set sewer rate that the town would need to charge its users for certain grants and that's all based on the median household income.

Councilwoman Gray - Ok and where would you find that?

Rylan - Montana Department of Commerce.

Jaime - That's on the HUD website so they have the census already on there so we would just look at this area, and that would be our documentation for the grant.

Councilwoman Gray - And where do you find what the rate is that we are supposed to be charging to meet that?

Rylan - They've changed their website so much.

Jaime - Ya, the only part I know is the LMI, which is based on the census for your area which shows the income levels. So you have to be low to medium income to apply for this grant, which when we looked last this area does cover that. So you're already in the criteria for the grant.

Rylan - Yes that's more something we would dive into writing the PER more so than applying for the grant.

Councilwoman Gray - The same thing applies to our water rates though, right?

Rylan - Yes, so they look at your water rates, and your sewer rates, but the combined rate is really what they will base it on. But if the Town gets the grant and decides to write the PER there will be more public involvement and we will discuss that further.

Mayor Thielen - This meeting, we decide if we want to proceed?

Rylan - Correct.

Jaime - Pursue the PER. Step one.

Councilman Oberlander - I imagine when you were talking about the two different types of the PER, the engineer would decide on that?

Rylan - Yes. Yes the Engineer would decide with the PER what needs to be done.

Councilman Oberlander - So this is solely for the PER? Does that involve the scanning?

Rylan - The Cameraing, that's already done but it would be for us to review the footage cause nobody has really done that.

Mayor Thielen - See that's what they required us to do for our upgrade at the lagoon. They wanted us to clean and camera them. Ya so we've got that step done.

Rylan - Yes. There's a PER done for the lagoon so this would be strictly on the piping.

Mayor Thielen - Now we have this meeting, do we have to have another one then?

Jaime - Yes there has to be two.

Clerk Martin - Yes the next one is scheduled for 6 o'clock the same day as our council meeting, and I've already sent a notice to the paper for it to run this week. So there will be a two week notice put out for the public before it takes place.

Mayor Thielen - I guess any other questions on it? My feelings on it, if it helps in the near future so we don't have clay tile breaking off then we should do it.

Councilman Oberlander - I don't know if you guys know this but I had to do this in my house. I had to actually tear up the concrete installing the bathroom, the further I got down that line the more and more it broke. And it was bad going under the house too.

Sam Thielen - I don't know how much lifespan we have left on the current clay pipe, but do you have an estimate on the resin? On the lifespan? Maybe we won't have to worry about it ever again.

Rylan - They've been putting it in since the 70's and haven't replaced any of it.

Councilman Oberlander - Again, so you have the engineer who's going to be deciding that based on what is needed.

Rylan - Yes. So when we get into the project and we start designing, we'll design the liner to a specific design life.

Mayor Thielen - So some of it could be the liner and some of it could be the PVC.

Rylan - Right. Yes. And we will look at manhole conditions and stuff. Cause there are different rehab options for manholes instead of just replacing them.

Sam Thielen - Might as well go for it, it's really the last big item we have that is not current. It will outlast Plevna probably.

Councilwoman Gray - Do we have to match this?

Jaime - Yes. The \$50,000 we do have to match this one. We can do a hardship though. This is where that LMI comes into play. So with that documentation we don't necessarily have to. We can do that hardship and that will cover it.

Mayor Thielen - What kind of a match is it though?

Jaime - I think this one is 1:1. I believe so. I believe this one is a 1:1 but with that hardship that should, according to Terra when we talked she said that would cover, she's not concerned.

Sam Theilen - What's the timeline on it?

Jaime - This one is due March 11th.

Councilwoman Miller - That's why we had to do this meeting.

Clerk Martin - Yes, so that we could get the second one in.

Mayor Thielen - 1:1 so if it's \$50,000 we have to do \$50,000

Jaime - \$25,000

Rylan - Right. So if our cost is \$50,000 it would be \$25,000 and the grant would be \$25,000.

Councilwoman Miller - But you're thinking we probably won't have to match it?

Jaime - No. When Terra and I visited she said really because of this LMI where you guys land at, there shouldn't have to be a match she's pretty confident of it.


Mayor Thielen - Do you have any more on it Rylan?

Rylan - No I don't. I don't know if there's any questions on it?

No questions.

Having no further questions and no further business the CDBG Public Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

2/10/25  
Signature Date:

  
Clerk, Ashley Martin

  
Mayor, Gary Thielen