

**Public Hearing for CDBG for Lakeside Cabins & Wildlife Artistry  
Portage Lake Municipal Building  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018**

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Hearing called to order at 6:02 p.m. by David Pierce, Selectboard chairman

There were 17 residents and 1 non-resident in attendance.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow public comment on a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), specifically the Micro Enterprise Grant Program, being applied for by two local businesses, Wildlife Artistry and Portage Lakeside Cabins, for the total amount of \$100,000. Joella Theriault from NMDC arrived late, but is here to answer any questions about the CDBG.

**Public Discussion:**

**Question:** Is this \$100,000 each?

**Answer:** \$50,000 each.

**Question:** What are the applicants proposing to do?

Applicant Steve Jandreau has an estimate; he plans to extend the back side of his building to square it off, which will change the pitch of the roof. The grant will cover the majority of the cost of the improvements; he will have to put in some money of his own.

**Question:** Is there anything that the applicants have to put up for collateral?

Applicant Steve Jandreau and applicant Shannon Currier each say they haven't been told they had to do that. Shannon says all of the paperwork has been sent to NMDC for Joella to disperse everything to where it was supposed to go. She isn't sure why nothing has been sent to the Board, unless she was supposed to bring it to the Board tonight.

Shannon Currier's plan is to redo some of the roofs and level off some cabins in order to install bathrooms; she is not extending any of the buildings. She says all of these upgrades will be taken care of with the CDBG. She says they will be taking out the bathhouse in order to install the bathrooms in the individual cabins.

The Board is concerned that they don't have any information on the legal issues of the CDBG and would like to know more about each of the businesses before they can make a decision. If the applicant doesn't fulfill their part of the grant, then the taxpayers have to pay the rest of the money to the lender.

(At this point Joella Theriault arrives at the meeting.)

She says the contract is going to be between the State of Maine and the Town, not NMDC, so that is why NMDC is not liable. She explains the Micro Enterprise Grant, those businesses with fewer than 5 employees and low to moderate income. She says Towns can adopt an agreement in which the business owners sign Hold Harmless agreements that says the business owners will pay back the difference if the loan defaults, so the Town is not liable. Low to moderate income

businesses don't have to create jobs if they can't—that isn't a requirement for the grant. Joella explains the point system for the CDBG applications.

**Question:** Resident asks why there is a section of the application giving points to Business Friendly Towns when not all towns are designated as Business Friendly. Resident says this puts the smaller towns at an immediate disadvantage, especially in such a competitive application process.

Joella didn't have an answer for that question.

Joella tells everyone that the State will not have money until after July 1, 2018. It is federal money that comes in to the state, and the state then disperses. If the federal government doesn't pass a budget, the state won't get its money until the federal government does.

**Question:** How does the money disbursement work?

Joella says the applicant submits invoices to the Town, the Town will ask the State for the money and the state pays the Town, who in turn pays the applicant. The Town is just a pass-through for the funds, and not liable for anything.

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Corrine Routhier