

***Public Hearing  
NYS Governor’s Office for Small Cities Grant Application  
August 10, 2006***

**The Public Hearing to receive public input regarding a NYS Governor’s Office for Small Cities Grant application for a relief package to make funding available to residents with immediate, temporary housing needs as a result of damage from the June 2006 flood through the 2006 State Disaster Relief, Temporary Housing Grant Program was called to order by the Chair at 1:35 P.M. Six Legislative Members were present, Legislators Harrington, Huttleston, and Oberbeck being absent.**

**There were 4 people in attendance.**

**The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.**

**Legislator Roberts spoke. “What are the eligibility requirements for this grant?”**

**Elaine Jardine, Planning Director, spoke. “It is a normal HUD community development block grant. There are income eligibility requirements. You have to serve at least 51% low-to-moderate income. The outlines are determined by HUD fiscal year 2005. Income limits varies from 1 to 6 people in a family. We do have to make preference for low-to-moderate income. We will serve them first up to 52% of total pool and once 52% is fulfilled then will open applications to any income levels.”**

**Legislator Roberts spoke. “So middle income after 52% is served will be available if the money is not spent?”**

**Elaine Jardine spoke. “All that money will not be spent.”**

**Legislator Roberts spoke. “There are a lot of people in that gray zone that make to much money and have not got a penny. They get no assistance. They are hurting and saying that they do not know if they can even get property taxes paid. This should be structured more to them.”**

**Elaine Jardine spoke. “We have to abide by the requirements.”**

**Legislator Roberts spoke. “I am getting to know these grants.”**

Legislator Sauerbrey spoke. "A large majority of people that were flooded out were people that I represent, Turtle Town, brick pond area, down by the river, and then Front Street. Even in the center of the Village the water came up through. I spent a lot of time walking the streets, calling people, meeting with them. One specific area seems to be a large high population of widows and widowers. These are people that are low income and they have houses, but they lost their first floor. They have no family around here and are really lost. They are living on social security and do not have any money. They do not know where to turn. This grant is part in helping them. Some of these FEMA categories you can move your electrical boxes or your water heater, furnace, etc. People who have flood insurance have been denied. FEMA is not here to make us whole. They are here to help.

"I support this grant. This is going to fill in the blank for those losses that people have experienced, that they may be able to get certain things paid for. They are not going to be able to get their couch replaced, etc. When you have lost everything you need something to help make you whole. I know another gentleman who lives back here. He is one of those cases I am talking about. He is not destitute. He is not on social security. They both work. He is going to fall in between. This is the second time he has been flooded. It destroyed the first floor of their home. They cannot live there. They are trying to get a trailer.

"I did have questions regarding this grant and was trying to figure out if Tioga Opportunities was going to manage it. I spent time with them and feel confident that they are going to administer the grant effectively. I think that this grant is going to help many people."

Chair Burns spoke. "This grant include rent, food, and furniture right?"

Elaine Jardine spoke. "Basic furniture."

Legislator Sauerbrey spoke. "There is a long term recovery group that is meeting weekly. They have developed a data base that plugs in support services available. There are different kinds of support you can get from cleaning kits to other things. It is really becoming a coordinated effort and I think this is part of it."

There being no further comments, Legislator Penney made a motion to adjourn at 1:44 P.M., seconded by Legislator Weston and the motion to adjourn was carried.