

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED BY GARY A. EPPOLITO, SUPERVISOR.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: GARY A. EPPOLITO, SUPERVISOR  
JAMES M. KREZMIEN, COUNCILMAN  
PAUL F. SALZLER, COUNCILMAN  
DEBORAH A. KING, COUNCILWOMAN

EXCUSED: WILLIAM F. SNYDER, III, COUNCILMAN

ALSO PRESENT: DARLENE G. SCHWEIKERT, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK  
DENNIS DAINS, HIGHWAY SUPT.  
DENISE CISZAK, Bookkeeper      GEORGE DONHAUSER  
CHRIS PROCTOR, Springville Journal

Supervisor Eppolito opened the hearing. Each year the County requires the Town to hold a Public Hearing. He explained the purpose of the hearing was for discussion on the Community Development Block Grant application. The difficulty we have as a Town is that the poverty area happens to be half the village basically Main Street north. This grant would fund American Disability Act projects. The Town is limited as to where we can apply for grants. In future if the Town gets the Senior Center going, then we could apply for monies through CDBG for ADA projects in the center. The grant money cannot be used for projects at the Town Hall because we have Town offices here. Our offices are not fundable agencies. The only project that Supervisor Eppolito has is the Rural Transit Service. He believes that the Town of Concord is probably the biggest user of the Rural Transit Service in terms of the number of rides than any other Town in the County. A usual block grant is \$100,000 so roughly we get about \$260,000 or \$270,000 from the program. The issue that is coming up is that that we are reaching the maximum in that grant. It is made very plain that that grant will probably not be increased over the amount that we are getting now. The problem is the federal government is already talking about a 15% cut in the program this year so if there is a 15% cut in the program, it is possible that we won't quite make the budget. Attached is an outline of a formula created several years ago that would break up among those towns to come up with a fair contribution from each town if we were to fall short. The Town of Concord's would be about \$700. Right now we contribute nothing. We provide office space and sundries but other than that, it costs us nothing. He thinks we will be alright this year and next year. Supervisor Eppolito noted that some towns have a lot fewer rides, but longer distance rides. The formula that was created was approved by the County. That will only come to effect if we shall fall under the amount of money we need. The Town of Concord only pays four people with the Rural Transit program. The program relies and could not exist without volunteers. If this program were to go away for some reason, if the federal government decided not to fund it, the town would have to find some way to continue the service.

Supervisor Eppolito explained to Chris Proctor that the Rural Transit Service is funded by the Community Development Block Grant program and is overseen by Erie County Environment and Planning. The grant funds are federal. The County has a consortium that meets and evaluates the project. The Rural Transit Service almost always gets funded because it goes on a point system and every town that is part of the consortium always names Rural Transit as a project so the project gets a lot of points. The Rural Transit Service van generally does not leave the Town of Concord. In some communities it does because there may not be the grocery store and the doctor's offices

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in their town. Denise Ciszak does the Going Places Van and that van generally goes to Buffalo twice a day. The Going Places Van is funded through Erie County Senior Services and the Town of Concord. Senior Services gives us the van and we pay everything else. This van travels over 55,000 miles a year. The Town of Concord has these two van services.

No one else addressed the Board.

Motion by Councilman Salzler, seconded by Councilwoman King, to close the hearing at 6:30 p.m. Councilwoman King, Councilmen Krezmien & Salzler, Supervisor Eppolito, voting aye; Councilman Snyder, excused. Carried.

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Darlene G. Schweikert