

Public Hearings Background Information

for

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS

and

LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 4 PROJECT, FORCE MAIN

LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 3 PROJECT, FORCE MAIN

LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT, PUMPING STATION

LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1 PROJECT, DESIGN

Notice was given in the *Cumberland Times-News* on Saturday, December 12, 2020, that the Allegany County Commissioners would sponsor public hearings on the following subjects:

1. To obtain the views of citizens on:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS

2. To offer citizens the opportunity to review an application for funds for:

LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 4 PROJECT, FORCE MAIN

The draft application will be available for the public to review and to provide comments on Monday, December 14, 2020, until Thursday, December 24, 2020, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD by appointment, by e-mail, contacting David Nedved at 240-727-2787 or at dnedved@alleganygov.org, and on the County's web site at <https://alleganygov.org/>

3. To offer citizens the opportunity to review the progress of:

- a. **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1 PROJECT, DESIGN**

- b. **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT,
PUMPING STATION**

- c. **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 3 PROJECT, FORCE
MAIN**

The hearings will be held in the Allegany County Commissioners' Public Meeting Room 100, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD, at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2020. A live feed of the proceedings will be available on the County's website, <https://alleganygov.org/>, at 5 pm. Citizens wishing to address the Board may do so by e-mailing comments to dnedved@alleganygov.org by 2 pm on Thursday, December 17, 2020.

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is a federally sponsored program designed to assist local governments with activities directed toward neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. CDBG funds are provided to the State of Maryland from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Maryland's CDBG program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The State of Maryland's allocation of CDBG funds for FY-2021 is estimated to be \$7,987,425. Funds are made available on a competitive basis to small political subdivisions not entitled to direct Federal funding. The maximum CDBG funds available per political subdivision is \$800,000.

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program reflects the State's economic and community development priorities and provides public funds for activities which meet one of the following national objectives, in accordance with the Housing Community Development Act of 1974, as amended:

1. Benefit low and moderate income persons and households;
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight;
3. Meet other community development needs of an urgent nature, or that are an immediate threat to community health and welfare.

The projects meet the National Block Grant objective of providing assistance to low- and moderate-income households; i.e., those below 80 percent of the median income for Allegany County and/or housing related projects. The projects are activities that will not result in displacement. The Allegany County Commissioners, however, have anti-displacement and relocation plans, as required.

The projects are also eligible activities for CDBG funds; specifically, they are all for public facilities. The activities that may be undertaken with CDBG funds are:

Acquisition of Real Property

Public Facilities and Improvements and Privately-Owned Utilities

Code Enforcement

Clearance, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Construction of Buildings Including Housing

Architectural Barrier Removal

Loss of Rental Income

Disposition of Real Property

Public Services

Payment of the Non-Federal Share

Relocation

Planning and Capacity Building

Program Administration Costs

Activities Carried Out Through Nonprofit Development Organizations

Economic Development Assistance to For-Profit Business
Additional Applicable Requirements—Activities Funded Under Section 105(a) (14), (15) & (17)
Technical Assistance
Housing Services
Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education
Microenterprise Assistance
In-Rem Housing
Homeownership Assistance
Interim Assistance

For the **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 4 PROJECT, FORCE MAIN**, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development on or before the January 22, 2021. The draft application and engineering reports will be available for the public to review and to provide comments on Monday, December 14, 2020, until Thursday, December 24, 2020, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD by appointment, by e-mail, contacting David Nedved at 240-727-2787 or at dnedved@alleganygov.org, and on the County's web site at <https://alleganygov.org/>

This activity meets the National Block Grant objective of providing assistance to low- and moderate-income households.

The **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1 PROJECT, DESIGN**, the **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT**, and the **PUMPING STATION LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 3 PROJECT, FORCE MAIN** are all being funded partially by Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grants.

Information and records for these projects will be available for the public to review on Monday, December 14, 2020, until Thursday, December 24, 2020, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD by appointment, or by e-mail, contacting David Nedved at 240-727-2787 or at dnedved@alleganygov.org.

LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Allegany County owns and operates the Locust Grove Pumping Station. The Locust Grove Pumping Station conveys all flow from the Jennings Run-Wills Creek Sanitary District to the LaVale Pumping Station force main and ultimately to the City of Cumberland's system. It serves an estimated 3,311 people. It serves the Census Designated Places going from west to east of Zihlman (360), Mount Savage (980), Barrelville (46), Corriganville (500), and Ellerslie (350) and households and businesses in between these places and after Corriganville.

The facility was constructed in 1975 and consists of a dry pit and wet well arrangement. The station has a firm pumping capacity of 1,970 gallons per millions (gpm) with one of the two

pumps operating. The station has space for a third pump. Wet weather overflows occur from a constructed overflow pipe that extends from an influent manhole to Jennings Run.

A Jennings Run-Wills Creek and Bedford Road Sanitary Districts Pumping Stations Evaluation was conducted in 2009, which included a capacity and condition assessment of this pumping station. The evaluation recommended the replacement of the major mechanical, HVAC, and electrical systems because they had reached the end of their expected lives. The evaluation also recommended improvements to the station to better protect it from flooding events. Lastly, it recommended upgrades to architectural elements including brickwork and roofing. Dry pit pumps were recommended for the station with a firm pumping capacity of 2,300 gpm to match the allowable capacity identified in the County's Bedford Road and Jennings Run Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Studies (SSES).

Allegany County also worked with the LaVale Sanitary Commission to evaluate alternatives for upgrading the sewage conveyance and treatment options for a multi-jurisdictional Project Planning Area which included the service areas for the LaVale Sanitary Commission, Allegany County's Braddock Run and Jennings Run-Wills Creek Sanitary Districts, and the City of Frostburg. The people served by LaVale Sanitary Commission is estimated to be 5,206. This includes the Census Designated Place of LaVale (3,745). Allegany County's Braddock Run and Jennings Run-Wills Creek Sanitary Districts serves an estimated 2,588 people. This includes the Census Designated Places of Grahamtown (235), Eckhart (1,315), and Clarysville (170). The City of Frostburg serves an estimated 6,800 people.

A Preliminary Design Engineer's Report was completed by the EADS Group for the LaVale Sanitary Commission in 2017. This report recommended the Locust Grove Pumping Station be replaced with a larger capacity station able to accommodate flow from the entire Project Planning Area. Going along with this overall recommendation was that a new gravity sewer would be constructed to convey flow previously handled by the LaVale Pumping Station to the new Locust Grove Pumping Station. This flow is from the service areas of the LaVale Sanitary Commission, Allegany County's Braddock Run Sanitary District, and the City of Frostburg. The LaVale Pumping Station would then be decommissioned.

The Preliminary Design Engineer's Report proposed that the project be completed in phases. The first phase would be the replacement of the Locust Grove Pumping Station. The second phase would be the construction of approximately 1,780 linear feet of excavated and micro-tunneled gravity sewer line to the new Locust Grove Pump Station. Then the LaVale Pumping Station would be abandoned.

For the initial two phases of work, flow from the pumping stations would continue to be pumped to the City of Cumberland for treatment. Ultimately, the report recommended the replacement of the Mechanic Street Relief Sewer and force main. This third phase of the project would replace 9,100 linear feet of an existing 24" force main. This phase would be broken into two segments. The first being 2,000 linear feet of replacement of the existing force main located in Wills Creek. The second segment would be the replacement of 7,100 linear feet of underground line. The above ground section of this main was replaced in 2015-2016.

The Locust Grove Pumping Station is also part of a Compliant and Consent Order issued by the State of Maryland Department of the Environment to the Allegany County Sanitary

District. The upgrade of this pumping station was identified as part of Allegany County's approach for addressing the Order.

The scope of the improvements includes the following major components: new wet well, three new dry-pit submersible pumps installed in a new below grade pump room, two new grinders upstream of the wet well, new activated carbon odor control system, new ductile iron piping, new valves and appurtenances, new flow meter, new emergency generator, new Motor Control Center, Variable Frequency Drives, controls and instrumentation and a new above grade building structure to protect the station from flooding. The station will be elevated two feet above the 100-year flood plan.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) approved awarding the design contracts for all three phases of the Locust Grove Sewage Improvements project to GHD Inc. by letter dated October 16, 2018. Design work began in December 2018 for the pump station. Design contracts were awarded to GHD Inc. for the other phases of the project on January 3, 2019. Design was completed for all three phases by the end of April, 2020. The total design cost was \$1,494,129.28. This was entirely paid for by CDBG funding. More specifically, \$800,000 in CDBG funding was awarded two years ago for this purpose, as was \$694,129.28 of the \$800,000 in CDBG funding awarded last year.

The project cost for the first phase of the project, the construction of the pumping station, is estimated to be \$14,005,785 overall, with \$11,671,487 for construction cost and \$2,334,298 for Engineering, Administration and Inspection Costs. The \$105,870.72 of the \$800,000 in CDBG funding awarded last year will help cover construction costs. Other funding sources are \$13,099,914.28 from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and \$800,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Bids for construction contractors for each of the three phases of were advertised on September 21, 2020. Bids were opened in November and December of 2020. Estimates of construction to discussed are based on the lowest bids received. Bids, however, have not yet been formally accepted by the Allegany County Commissioners. Construction for all three phases is scheduled to start in January 2021 and end in October 2022.

The project cost for the third phase of the project, replacement of the force main, is estimated to be \$5,752,548 overall, with \$4,793,790 for construction cost and \$958,758 for Engineering, Administration and Inspection Costs. \$500,000 in CDBG funding was already awarded for this project on October 5, 2020 and will help cover construction costs. An additional \$575,000 in CDBG funding is being pursued for this phase to further help cover construction costs. The other funding source is \$4,677,548 from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

The project cost for the second phase of the project, the gravity sewer, is estimated to be \$6,822,102 overall, with \$5,685,085 for construction cost and \$1,137,017 for Engineering, Administration and Inspection. The funding source for the second phase of the Locust Grove Sewage Improvements project is entirely the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

The overall combined project cost, including design and construction for all three phases, is estimated to be \$28,074,564.28. Allegany County will be providing \$5,000 in in-kind services for the overall project.