

Community Action seeks \$800,000 in CDBG funding

by Renée Shreve
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND—Garrett County commissioners held a public hearing Monday afternoon for Community Action’s Community Development Block Grant application.

“You have a limit on how much funding you can ask for your jurisdiction,” President Duane Yoder said about CDBG funding.

His agency is seeking \$800,000 for its Chautauqua Park West workforce housing initiative.

“That’s the current ceiling that the Department of Housing and Development has established,” Yoder said about the level of the funding request.

He explained Chautauqua West involves 77 housing units in Loch Lynn, Mountain Lake Park and Oakland.

Twenty-one of those units will be new construction in Oakland. Fifty-six existing units in Loch Lynn and Mountain Lake Park will receive extensive renovations, including energy-efficiency work.

The initiative is to be a mix of income restricted and unrestricted units.

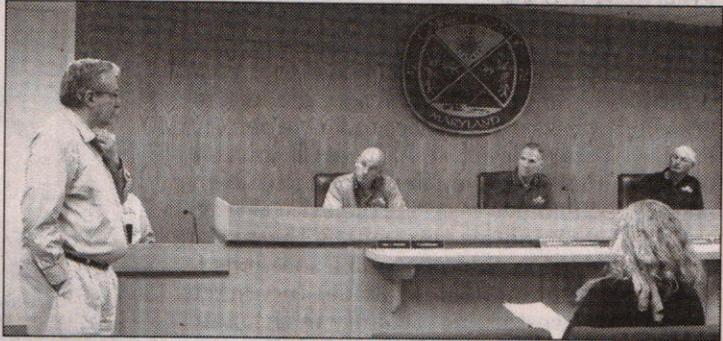
“The CDBG in this case would be designated just for the lower-income units, and would be used exclusively for that,” Yoder said.

Cindy Sharon, Garrett County Department of Economic Development project manager, noted that residents at existing units will be displaced during the renovation process. She asked Yoder how this issue will be handled.

“We have a plan, and we have money budgeted for it,” he said.

Yoder said the renovation work would be done “in clusters.”

“We’ll just do one building



Staff photo by Renée Shreve

Community Action President Duane Yoder, left, provides details about his agency’s Chautauqua Park West project during a public hearing Monday afternoon at the county commissioners’ office. Community Action is seeking \$800,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for the workforce housing initiative. Also pictured are Commissioners Paul Edwards, Jim Hinebaugh and Larry Tichnell.

and rotate people,” he said. “We’ll recreate some vacancies. We won’t fill units while the work is being done.”

Sharon explained at the beginning of the hearing that the Maryland CDBG program is a federally sponsored initiative designed to assist local governments with neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services.

To be considered for funding, projects must meet one or more of the following national objectives: benefit persons and households of low and moderate income, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and meet other community development needs of an urgent nature or that are an immediate threat to community health and welfare.

“This year’s allocation for (fiscal year) 2019 is estimated at \$7,114,498,” Sharon said. “Of course, that’s statewide.”

Those seeking CDBG funding are required to hold hearings to enable members of the public to review the projects and provide input on



Staff photo by Renée Shreve

Cindy Sharon, Garrett County Department of Economic Development project manager, provides details about applying for Community Development Block Grant funding during a public hearing at the county commissioners’ office.

them. Copies of the Community Action’s application will be available for review June 11 through June 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Room 208A.

Community Action’s application must be submitted to DHCD by June 22 at 2 p.m.

