



PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 5.

DATE OF MEETING: May 3, 2010

REQUESTED BY: Patrick Davenport, Planning Director

SHORT TITLE: Update on FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Grant Application

BACKGROUND: Recently the Board authorized staff to prepare an application seeking grant funds from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (HMAP). Staff is working with Holland Consulting Planners to gather data necessary to prepare an application, which includes soliciting qualifying properties for interest in participation.

The grant funds will cover 75-90% of the cost of elevating and retrofitting homes so their risk of future flooding will be significantly reduced.

Staff has gathered data from the State on properties in the county that have experienced flood losses in the past, and which may qualify for program grant funding. We are ready to mail letters to these homeowners seeking their interest in participating in the program. As well, we plan to advertise public notices to notify others that may have experienced documented flood damage to assess their interest in having their homes evaluated for qualification.

A copy of the letter being mailed is attached. The County is asking that if a homeowner is interested, the requested information be completed and returned by May 24, 2010.

Please note that homes in the VE Flood Zones (oceanfront) will not qualify for the program as the State prefers acquisition of these properties when possible, not elevation. Commercial properties (regardless of zone) do not qualify as well.

Staff simply wanted to use this opportunity to help get the word out to the public about the possibility of grant funding to minimize future flooding, and to inform the Board of the mailing and process in case you get any calls or questions.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING • CODE ENFORCEMENT • BUILDING INSPECTIONS • CENTRAL PERMITTING



May 3, 2010

Dear Homeowner:

Pender County is seeking your interest in participation in a new national program to assist homeowners who have experienced repetitive flood damage to their home during storm events. The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Program, administered through FEMA, is intended to offer assistance in the form of home elevation and foundation retrofitting to properties that have suffered repeated flood losses in Pender County. Data available to the county from FEMA indicates that your property may have suffered flood losses and that you may benefit from this program.

HMA funds may be available in 2011 to elevate your home above base flood elevation and retrofit your home's foundation. Elevation will significantly reduce your flood insurance premiums and virtually eliminate the risk of future flooding to your home. In order to be considered for this assistance, you must complete the attached **Property Site Inventory Form** and also provide some additional documentation including an **elevation certificate** or a surveyor's finished floor elevation certification and at least three **photographs** of the property to Pender County. If you improved your home in recent years, you may be able to obtain an elevation certificate from the county building inspection office.

We must also inform you that even after HMA funds are made available to the county, there is no guarantee that your home will qualify for assistance. This program is competitive and has strict qualification requirements. However, we believe that because of the flood-prone nature of your home, you would be a good candidate for the HMA program and would benefit significantly from participating. The program will provide 75% to 90% of the entire cost of elevating and retrofitting your home.

In order to move forward with our funding request, we will need your completed questionnaire and supporting documentation delivered to my attention by mail or in person at the address below no later than **May 21, 2010**. Please be detailed about damage, and include all requested information to help assure the success of your application.

Also, if your home has been elevated please call or write our office so we can take your name off of the Pender County Repetitive Loss list.

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact the county offices directly at 910-259-1202.

Sincerely,
Patrick Davenport, Director
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805 South Walker Street
Burgaw, NC 28425

BURGAW

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