

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS**

July 25, 2023

Chairman, Glenn Yeager called the meeting of the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks to order at 4:30 P.M. on July 25, 2023 at the offices of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks, 400 E. Wyomissing, Avenue, Ground Floor, Suite 2, Mohnton, Pennsylvania 19540 and via Zoom telecommunications.

1. **Roll Call:**

The following Board members were present during the meeting:

Glenn Yeager, Chairman
Eileen Kastura, Vice Chair
Diodato Bassano, Treasurer
Jorge Diaz, Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer
Thomas Ruth, Secretary - Absent

Also in attendance were:

Daniel Becker, Esquire of Kozloff Stoudt, Solicitor
Kenneth Pick, Executive Director
Joshua Lewis, Facilities & Housing Manager
Tyler Reese, Housing Generalist
Jaime Perez, Housing Planner
Kathy Miller, Fiscal Officer
Kyre Maxwell, Assistant Fiscal Officer
Michele Hummel, Assistant Fiscal Officer
Pauline Klopp, Redevelopment Generalist
Susan Buono, Executive Assistant
Marisol Martinez, Redevelopment Generalist

2. **Reading and approval of minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2023:**

Upon motion made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Eileen Kastura, all members of the Board present voted to approve the June 27, 2023 minutes of the Board.

3. **Report of Treasurer:**

Diodato Bassano presented the Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet as of July 25, 2023. Mr. Bassano also presented the Statement of Activities from January 2023 through June 2023. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes. Upon motion by Eileen Kastura and seconded by Glenn Yeager, all Board members present voted to accept the report of the Treasurer, including said Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet, subject to audit.

4. **Bills and Communications:**

Diodato Bassano, presented the list of payments to creditors representing the period of June 27, 2023 through July 25, 2023. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes. Upon motion by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Eileen Kastura, all Board members present voted to approve and/or ratify the list of payments to creditors.

There were no communications.

5. **Reports of Committees:**

There were no committee reports presented.

6. **Unfinished Business:**

a) **Rentals (Susan)**

- a. Susan Buono reported on property 525-1 East Lancaster Avenue. SAM tenant paperwork is in process. Susan also reported that there are new tenants that moved in at 517-D East Lancaster Avenue.

b) **Colebrookdale Railroad:** Mr. Pick advised of the following:

- a. We are still working on the National Environmental Protection Act for the loans and grants received. Mr. Pick advised that we are looking at potentially closing on the two grants and loans in early 2024. Mr. Pick reported that the Steam Locomotive has arrived and is sitting at Pine Forge. Nathaniel Guest from Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust has been raising funds for the restoration project. Mr. Pick also reminded of the Annual BCRA Annual Dinner/Train Ride to take place on September 27, 2023.

c) **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**.

a. Kyre Maxwell reported the following statistics since the June 27th board meeting: here are 0 applications in progress, 0 applications submitted, 11 applications under review, 0 pending financial review, 4 pending application info, 1,471 have been denied, 14 applications have been withdrawn, 81 are in payment status with BCRA, 26 are in payment status with BCEH, 28 reapplications needed, 415 have been approved for an additional 3 months, and 3,215 participants have ended assistance after 12-18 months.

d) **Armorcast**. Mr. Pick had nothing to report on Armorcast.

e) **Whole Homes Repair Program (WHRP)**. Josh Lewis advised the Board of the following:

a. The program opened on July 5, 2023, and closed on July 12, 2023, due to the number of individuals registered and the amount of funding available. Mr. Lewis advised it may potentially be opened again later. So far, 168 applications have been received, 82 are awaiting additional information, 14 have been denied, and 36 have been approved and in process at Habitat for Humanity and 36 have been approved for the BCRA.

f) **Major Systems Program**. Tyler Reese reported the following statistics to the Board: To date, there have been 44 applications submitted to the Authority, homes repairs have been completed on 14 houses and 8 are in progress.

g) **Housing Update** Jamie Perez reported on Imagine Berks and that they have attended over 10 regional meetings and are in the process of compiling the information and preparing their 1 year report.

7. **New Business:**

a. **Resolution 2023-15** Marisol Martinez reported that this Resolution will help get the addition to the museum started. They will be receiving an approximately 1-million-dollar loan of artifacts pertaining to the Holocaust to put into the new addition. A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano to authorize the RACP grant application for Berks Military/Holocaust Museum. All members of this Authority present voted in the affirmative.

- b. **Resolution 2023-16** A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano approving and authorizing the purchase of 590 Oley Road to the Authority. All members of this Authority present voted in the affirmative.
- c. **Resolution 2023-12** A motion was made by Glenn Yeager approving and authorizing the sale of 590 Oley Road from BCNDC to the Authority. The motion was seconded by Eileen Kastura and all members of this Authority present voted in the affirmative.
- d. **Agreement #1** A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano to approve Agreement with Opportunity House providing \$90,900.00 from the County's 2023 Federal Emergency Solutions Grant Program.
- e. **Agreement #1** A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano to approve Agreement with Family Promise providing \$96,011.00 from the County's 2023 Federal Emergency Solutions Grant Program.

8. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business of this Authority, a motion was made by Eileen Kastura to adjourn the meeting of this Authority. The motion was seconded by Glenn Yeager and all members of this Authority present voted in the affirmative. The next meeting of the Board will be on August 22, 2023. This meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Glenn A. Yeager, Chairman