

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

April 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 April 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
Thomas Ruth, Secretary
Jorge Diaz, Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

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
Kyre Maxwell, Assistant Fiscal Officer
Michele Hummel, Assistant Fiscal Officer

2. **Reading and approval of minutes of the meeting of March 28, 2023:**

Upon motion made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano, all members of the Board present voted to approve the March 28, 2023 minutes of the Board.

3. **Report of Treasurer:**

Diodato Bassano presented the Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet as of April 25, 2023. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes. Upon motion by Jorge Diaz and seconded by Eileen Kastura, 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 April 1, 2023 through April 25, 2023. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes. Upon motion by Jorge Diaz and seconded by Thomas Ruth, all Board members present voted to approve 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**

Ken Pick stated that all rental maintenance issues have been reported and that maintenance will follow-up on the issues. There are no vacancies at this time.

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

Work continues on the Boyertown Transload facility. The Colebrookdale railroad services the Boyertown Foundry anticipating delivering coke to their facility. Ken Pick attends weekly meetings with consultants for the National Environmental Protection Act with respect to the requirements of the RIF loan and CRISSY grant. A Pacific locomotive was donated by the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum to the Colebrookdale Railroad and will be arriving in Boyertown sometime this summer. It will need approximately \$3 million dollars to renovate.

c. **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).** Kyre Maxwell reported the following statistics since the March board meeting:

There are 12 applications in progress, 19 pending financial review, 6 pending vendor response, 1,512 have been denied, 100 applications have been withdrawn, 470 are in payment status with BCRA, 75 are in payment status with BCEH, 3 are approved pending payment, 465 have been approved for an additional 3 months, and 2,706 participants have ended assistance after 12-18 months. All funding is expected to be allocated by July 1, 2023.

d. **Amorcast.** Mr. Pick reported that the Authority is still waiting for the Board of View hearing to be scheduled to determine a fair market price for just compensation for the old railroad station in Birdsboro. Mr. Pick had nothing further to report on Amorcast.

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

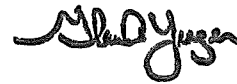
Neighborly Software will be used to upload the application for the WHRP. The program is scheduled for start-up in mid-June of this year. Staff is working to design a webpage to link program applicants to an on-line application to be used when the application process begins. Purple Finch was selected to design a landing page that will direct County residents to the application. The design of the program is expected to be a forgivable loan to be paid off if the homeowner sells the property before the ten-year mark. WHRP will also include any eligible City residents. Habitat for Humanity will be the contractor to administer the program for City residents with BCRA staff administering the program for County residents. BCRA may need to hire an additional staff person. A funding agreement with Habitat for Humanity will be presented to the Board at this meeting for approval under New Business.

7. **New Business:**

- a. **Funding Agreement:** A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Thomas Ruth to approve the Agreement with Habitat for Humanity providing 270,000 for the administration of the Whole-Home Repairs Program within the City of Reading. All Board members present voted in the affirmative.

8. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business of this Authority, a motion was made by Glenn Yeager to adjourn the meeting of this Authority. The motion was seconded by Jorge Diaz and all members of this Authority present voted in the affirmative. The next meeting of the Board will be on May 23, 2023. This meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Glenn A. Yeager, Chairman