

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

August 23, 2022

Chairman, Glenn Yeager called the meeting of the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks to order at 4:32 P.M. on August 23, 2022 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 Treasurer/Assistant Secretary

Thomas Ruth, Secretary (absent)

Also in attendance were:

Kenneth Pick, Executive Director
Daniel P. Becker, Esquire of Kozloff Stoudt, Solicitor
Kathy Heckman, Executive Assistant
Kathy Miller, Fiscal Officer
Thomas Dachowski, Housing Director
Joshua Lewis, Facilities & Housing Manager
Kyre Maxwell, Redevelopment Generalist
Pauline Klopp, Redevelopment Generalist

2. **Reading and approval of minutes of the meeting of July 26, 2022:**

Upon motion made by Eileen Kastura and seconded by Glenn Yeager, all members of the Board present voted to approve the July 26, 2022 minutes.

3. **Report of Treasurer:**

Diodato Bassano advised the Board that due to software issues with the accounting program, he would not present the Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet ending July 31, 2022. The Treasurer's report will be presented at the next scheduled meeting of the Authority in September 2022.

4. **Bills and Communications:**

Diodato Bassano presented the list of payments to creditors representing the period of August 1, 2022 through August 24, 2022. 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 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**

Kathy Heckman stated that there were a few tenant issues at the E. Lancaster Avenue apartment buildings that were reported and taken care of by maintenance. Ambiance Hair Salon reopened on August 16, 2022 after renovations due to the fire in February 2022.

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

Work continues on the Boyertown Transload facility. Phase I of the work on the facility is approximately 30 days until completion. The Authority purchase an additional property along the rite-a-way from Boyertown heading southeast toward the Walmart on Route 100. It is gradually buying back all the property along the rite-a-way. Mr. Pick had a meeting with the Department of Transportation concerning the CRISI Grant as well as the RIF loan. He and Nathaniel Guest and Stone Consulting are working on the documentation required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) for the CRISI Grant and the RIF loan with a potential to close on the loan and grant in 2023. Mr. Pick also reported that the Authority has made an additional payment of \$100,000.00 toward the restoration of the Diplomat railroad car.

c. **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).** Kyre Maxwell advised of the following statistics since the July board meeting:

There are 35 new applications under review, 175 applications pending various information, 75 pending financial review, 116 pending vendor response, 1,042 have been withdrawn, 591 have been denied, 234 are in payment status with BCRA, 131 are in payment status with BCEH, 663 applications have been approved for an additional 3 months and 1,257 participants have ended assistance after 12-18 months.

d. **Amorcast.** Mr. Pick advised the Board of the following:

The Authority is still waiting for the owner to sign the settlement documents. The owner will be able to take any of his possessions from the old train station building. The building will then be cleared out and demolished.

7. **New Business:**

- a. Agreement is with the YMCA for the administration of the Re-Connection Program providing \$12,000 per year from the County's Act 137 funds for years 2021-2025. Mr. Pick stated that the Agreement with the YMCA to administer the Reconnection Program has been in existence for approximately 20 years successfully housing homeless persons by providing transportation to reconnect them with family member or friends from out of town. A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve the Agreement.
- b. Agreement with the BCNDC providing \$800,000 from the County's CDBG Program for the development of affordable housing. Mr. Pick explained the purpose of this Agreement. A regulation of the CDBG program is that the funds allocated have to be spent before November 2nd of each calendar year. One of the eligible activities of CDBG is purchasing housing and selling it to low/moderate income individuals. A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Eileen Kastura, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve the Agreement.
- c. Approval by the Board to advertise the position of Housing Planner. Included in the County's Imagine Berks Economic Development Plan is a goal for the Authority to hire and fund the position for a Housing Planner who would work with the County's Planning Commission as well as the Redevelopment Authority. A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve the Resolution.

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 Diodato Bassano and all members of this Authority present voted in the affirmative. The next meeting of the Board will be on September 27, 2022. This meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Glenn Yeager, Chairman