

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

March 1, 2022

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 March 1, 2022 via a Zoom meeting.

1. Roll Call:

The following Board members were present during the meeting:

Glenn Yeager, Chairperson
Eileen Kastura, Vice Chairperson
Diodato Bassano, Treasurer
Thomas Ruth, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Also in attendance were:

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

2. Reading and approval of minutes of the meeting of 1/25/22:

Upon motion made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Eileen Kastura, all members of the Board present voted to approve the January 25, 2022 minutes noting one correction to be made to Mr. Bassano's name on Page 2 of the minutes.

3. Report of Treasurer:

Diodato Bassano presented the Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2022. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes. Upon motion by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Thomas Ruth, 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 January 28, 2022 to March 2, 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. Ms. Heckman advised there was a minor electrical fire on January 28, 2022 at the hair salon rental on Lancaster Avenue. The damage was contained to smoke damage. The fire did not spread to the apartments above, and there were no injuries.

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

i. The Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor for Phase 1 of the Boyertown transload facility.

ii. Mr. Pick submitted a letter of interest for the \$40,000,000.00 RIF loan for the railroad expansion project.

iii. Mr. Pick and Solicitor Becker continue to work on the Lease and Operating Agreement.

iv. The Colebrookdale Railroad Train business has slowed since the holidays are over. The Train continues to operate mainly on the weekends.

v. A grant in the approximate amount of \$1,000,000.00 was received from PennDOT.

vi. Boyertown Foundry is pleased that the Foundry will receive direct coke shipments and is looking forward to having scrap metal shipped out.

c. Armorcast R.A. Mr. Pick advised that he is still waiting for the owner to execute the Agreement.

d. Emergency Rental Assistance Program ("ERAP"). Mr. Maxwell advised that there are 18 applications in progress, 274 applications pending information, 945 applications have been withdrawn, 202 applications for which assistance has ended, 37 applications currently being paid, and 657 applications which need to be reapplied in order to be paid. Mr. Maxwell further advised that there is currently available \$3,255 available in American Rescue Plan funds, \$3,543,220 available in ERAP State funds, \$11,440,700 for the new State American Rescue Plan funds, and \$336,564 available in Federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds. As of today, the Authority has began accepting applications again.

Mr. Pick advised that all of the funds must be allocated by September 30, 2025 and the funds must be spent by September 30, 2030.

7. **New Business:**

- a. Resolution #2022-2 seeking \$350,000 from the Pennsylvania Local Share Account for the Oley Road Project of BCNDC. Mr. Pick advised that \$145,000,000 in funds are available from gambling taxes. The funds the BCNDC receive will be used for the Oley Road Project. A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Thomas Ruth, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve Resolution #2022-2.
- b. Approval of an agreement with the County of Berks for the administration of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the American Rescue Act. A motion was made by Eileen Kastura and seconded by Glenn Yeager, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve the Agreement.
- c. Approval of an agreement with the Berks Coalition to End Homelessness for administrative assistance with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the American Rescue Act. A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Diodato Bassano, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve the Agreement.
- d. Resolution #2022-3 related to the purchase of a parcel for \$43,200 from the Reading R/W Company and required for the expansion of the Colebrookdale Spur. A motion was made by Glenn Yeager and seconded by Thomas Ruth, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve Resolution #2022-3.
- e. Approval of an agreement with the Berks County Nonprofit Development Corporation providing a maximum of \$200,000 from the County's HOME-ARP

Program for the acquisition and rehabilitation of a single-family house to be used as an emergency shelter for homeless families. A motion was made by Eileen Kastura and seconded by Thomas Ruth, all Board members present voted in the affirmative to approve the agreement.

8. **Executive Session:** The Board entered into executive session at 5:07 p.m.

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 Thomas Ruth and all members of this Authority present voted in the affirmative. The next meeting of the Board will be March 22, 2022. This meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Glenn Yeager, Chairperson