

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY LAND BANK
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2018**

The scheduled meeting of the Lackawanna County Land Bank was held on Friday, October 12, 2018 in the Commissioners' Conference Room, 200 Adams Avenue, Sixth Floor, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

At 10:00 am Chairman O'Malley called the meeting to order and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by George Kelly
Commissioner O'Malley (Chairman) – Present
Henry Deecke - Excused
Linda Aebli – Present
Marion Gatto – Present
Terrence McDonnell – Present
Steve Pitoniak – Present

Also present were Atty. Joseph Colbassani, Land Bank Legal Counsel, Ralph Pappas, Business Relations Manager, and Laura McGowan, Housing Financial Analyst.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments made at this time.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Terrence McDonnell and seconded by Linda Aebli to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2018 meeting as prepared and presented.

All in Favor

PRESENTATION of VOUCHERS for EXAMINATION and APPROVAL

A motion was made by Marion Gatto and seconded by Terrence McDonnell to approve voucher expenditures of September 15, 2018 through October 12, 2018, as presented.

All in Favor

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a.) **New interest in Joining the Land Bank – Old Forge, Dunmore:** Mr. McDonnell explained that he and Mr. Kelly attended an executive session before Dunmore's most recent council meeting. The purpose being to discuss the Land Bank and its potential benefits. The presentation was well received by Council. Dunmore does not have many tax delinquent properties (5 currently), but there is an interest. Information on the Land Bank and a draft of the paperwork to join was given to them. All that is needed is the approval of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement by both Borough Council and the School District. Old Forge Borough has expressed interest in the Land Bank as well. They have 1 or 2 blighted properties. Mr. Kelly intends to attend their next work session to further discuss the benefits of joining the Land Bank.

- b.) **Blight to Bright LSA Grant Update** Mr. Kelly mentioned that Todd Pousley and Jesse Ergott from NeighborWorks NEPA were in attendance and asked that they speak about the work that they are doing with the Blight to Bright Program. Todd mentioned that they have conducted two task force meetings at this point, with the third of four meetings to be held October 25, 2018. There have been good responses from the involved communities thus far.
- c.) **1445 Meylert Avenue Update:** Mr. Kelly explained that they are still making progress. They have had some issues with dust and had to adjust their demolition routines. He will reach out to the developers again. They should be demolishing it soon. The Phase II environmental can then be completed, and the purchase can be finalized.
- d.) **Bid Openings:** Mr. Pappas explained that there were no bids to be opened at this meeting.

PROPERTY DISCUSSIONS

2935-2937 Pittston Avenue

Mr. Pappas explained that an application was received for this property. This is a City owned property at the corner of Pittston Avenue and McDonough Street. He received an email from Linda Aebli explaining that the City would like to donate it to the Land Bank. A sign will be put up on it and it will be placed on the website(s) to let other people know it is available, but prior to that it has to go through the normal procedures in terms of City Council approval to donate a City owned property to the Land Bank.

Resolution NO. 18-031 – Approving the acquisition of a property from the City of Scranton.

Motion by Steve Pitoniak

Seconded by Linda Aebli

All in Favor

Resolution NO. 18-032 – Approving the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Lackawanna County, Fell Township, and the Carbondale Area School District.

Motion by Terrence McDonnell

Seconded by Marion Gatto

All in Favor

Resolution NO. 18-033 – Approving the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Lackawanna County, Mayfield Borough, and the Lakeland School District.

Motion by Marion Gatto

Seconded by Linda Aebli

All in Favor

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were no comments made at this time. However, Mr. Pappas announced that the Land Bank will be receiving approximately \$12,000 in January from property taxes paid on sold properties.

ADJOURNMENT

As all business had been conducted, a motion to adjourn was made by Linda Aebli with a second by Marion Gatto. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.


 Marion Gatto, Secretary

Prepared by Laura McGowan