



**HOUSING AUTHORITY
Minutes – September 7, 2022
In person at Planning Office
and via Zoom**

Call to Order: Chair Schulz called the meeting of the Housing Authority of Rock County to order at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

Members present in person: Chair Supervisor Kathy Schulz

Members present via ZOOM: Supervisor Bill Wilson, Jason Heidenreich and Billy Bob Grahm

Members excused: Michelle Ponkauskas

Rock County Staff present: Andrew Baker (Planning Director), Jackie Revels (Homelessness Prevention Coordinator, Human Services)

Others present via zoom: Supervisor Mary Mawhinney, Alexis Stedman and Aaron Stroede (Legal Action).

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Wilson made a motion to approve. Mr. Grahm seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes from Meeting Held July 6, 2022: Mr. Grahm made a motion to approve. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None

Update from Human Services Department's Homelessness Prevention Coordinator

Jackie Revels provided the Housing Authority on update of what she has been working on in her first two months. She pointed out that she does not work directly with families, but rather a resource for existing organizations. Her main project to date has been developing the ARPA Grant Fund materials. This is related to the \$3 million dollars that the County Board set aside as match for local municipalities and non-profits that are working on (or plan to address) homelessness related topics. The goal is to invest in sustainable use of funds. There will be a scoring rubric used when reviewing the applications. The application was specifically designed to be simple, non-daunting, to help encourage more applications. Public outreach has been completed to all communities and non-profits. The goal is to make funding decision by the end of the month.

Update from Legal Action

Alexis from Legal Action provided a summary for the Housing Authority. Office hours are being held periodically at both ECHO and Hedburg Library at regular dates and times (approximately 10 hrs a week total). The main purpose of the role in Rock County is to increase communication between landlords and tenants and to work out differences to avoid eviction process. They generally work on eviction cases, negotiate regarding property conditions, deal with lock outs and try to settle security deposit disputes. They also work with people to get evictions redacted from the court records. So far they have helped 22 individuals, including people from Janesville, Beloit, Edgerton, Evansville and Milton. Outreach has gone to churches, Head Start, CPS, schools, etc.

At this time Supervisor Wilson brought to the attention a Plan from Outagamie County that could be an example for Rock County. This would be associated with the effort to create a county-wide initiative starting with a presentation to the County Board (probably after the budget cycle). Next would be the formation of a Work Group made up of all involved parties (landlords, business, public and private/non-profit agencies, etc). Andrew will send a copy of the plan to all members.

Adjournment:

Mr. Grahn made the motion to adjourn at 9:48 am. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion.
ADOPTED

Next meeting: 10/5/2022 at 9:00AM

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Baker, Director