



HOUSING AUTHORITY
Minutes – June 1, 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, June 1, 2022.

Members present in person: Chair Supervisor Kathy Schulz and Supervisor Bill Wilson
Members present via ZOOM: Billy Bob Grahn and Michelle Ponkauskas,
Members excused: Jason Heidenreich

Rock County Staff present: Andrew Baker (Planning Director)
Others present: Todd Mandel, via Zoom for a portion (Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development)

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting Held May 4, 2022: Supervisor Wilson made a motion to approve. Ms. Ponkauskas seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Action Item: Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Supervisor Wilson nominated Supervisor Schulz as Chair. Mr. Grahn seconded. There were no other nominations. Members concurred by acclamation to elect Supervisor Schulz as Chair. Supervisor Schulz nominated Mr. Grahn as Vice Chair. Supervisor Wilson seconded. There were no other nominations. Members concurred by acclamation to elect Mr. Grahn as Vice Chair.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Williams noted that he and Supervisor Schulz, who is also now a representative of County Board to Community Action, met with Executive Mark Perry regarding the pending end of eligibility for rent assistance for people that origination started with the program 18 months ago (which is the max duration of assistance for a household). There is great concern on the impact of the ending of this assistance.

Action Item: Final Funding Decisions
Edgerton Retirement Apartments Mr. Mandel from WPHD explained the project and answered

questions. This project not only maintains affordable housing, but also decreases the carbon footprint through the installation of geothermal and solar systems. Supervisor Wilson made a motion to approve the funding from the HOME funds as recommended in the report from WPHD. Seconded by Supervisory Schulz. Motion carried unanimously.

Edgerton Community Outreach Mr. Mandel from WPHD explained the project and answered questions. There was discussion regarding whether the project should be funded at the level requested or save some funds for future projects. Mr. Mandel informed the Committee that even with these two projects there are years of funds available at the current rate of programs use. Supervisor Wilson spoke strongly in support of the project not only for the people of Edgerton but also as an example for how other communities can do the same thing. Mr. Grahn made a motion to approve the funding from the HOME funds as recommended in the report from WPHD. Seconded by Supervisory Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

County Budget Requests. Chair Schulz noted that she asked that this item be placed on the agenda. She sees the need for further education for the new County Board related to housing related needs in the County. Possible additional staff could help with this task. Andrew noted part of the role of the new Homeless Prevention Coordinator in Human Services will be to address these types of tasks.

Status Update Regarding Goals in Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Document

A. Status of Resolutions Introduced to County Board Related to Housing Services Andrew noted that Human Services is working on hiring the homelessness prevention coordinator position. When the position is filled, the new staff person will take on the additional programs that have been initially earmarked for funding by the County Board. Supervisor Schulz noted that the Attorney and Assistant position for Legal Action have been filled. Mr. Grahn mentioned that there may be concern regarding the fact that the money that County Board has preliminarily earmarked from ARPA for housing related programs, namely the matching grant program (3 million) and the funds for Family Services (3 million) may be challenged by new members and redirected to other initiatives. Andrew noted that this is something that could be done at the time the final budget amendment is voted on to implement the programs. It will take education to convince the current and new members of this need, a role that we can all help with including Human Services.

Status of Program Implementation and Outreach Efforts

No further updates for this item

Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics

Supervisor Schulz asked for continued updates in July, including possibly an update regarding the Family Services project.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Wilson made the motion to adjourn at 10:05 am. Mr. Grahn seconded the motion, noted that the Committee should be considered geniuses for the discussions and decisions accomplished today 😊 . ADOPTED

Next meeting: 7/6/2022 at 9:00AM

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Baker, Director