



HOUSING AUTHORITY
Minutes – August 7, 2024
Planning Department Conference Room
2nd Floor Rock County Courthouse
51 S Main St, Janesville, WI 53545
And Via ZOOM

Call to Order: Chair Schulz called the meeting of the Housing Authority of Rock County to order at 9:01 AM on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

Members present in person: Chair Supervisor Kathy Schulz

Members present via ZOOM: Katie Udell and Supervisor Bill Wilson

Members excused: Billy Bob Grahn and Badri Balur

Rock County Staff present: Andrew Baker (Planning Director) and Ilana Eisenberg (Office Coordinator)

Others present: Alexis Camacho-Stedman (Legal Action)

Others present via ZOOM: Mat Gonzalez (?)

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Wilson made a motion to approve. Ms. Udell seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes from Meeting Held July 3, 2024: Ms. Udell made a motion to approve. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None

Update from Legal Action Regarding Services in Rock County:

Alexis Camacho-Stedman (Legal Action) began discussion on this action item. She explained how it is a civil non-profit law firm. Funding began in 2022 with ARPA funds through Human Services with providing roughly \$150,000.00 per year. Aaron Stroede is the attorney and Ms. Camacho-Stedman is

the paralegal. They are looking for additional funding to keep this program alive for Rock County by researching funds sources in both Beloit and Janesville. Additionally, applications have been submitted for CDBG funds for HUD Grants funds too see if funding is approved. Ms. Camacho-Stedman prepared a presentation about the work Legal Action does in Rock County. Just in 2024, there have been 70 open cases, with 30 of them requiring extended representation. The counties of Wausau, Dane, and Milwaukee have abatement charts or schedules to act as guidelines for landlords to indicate what necessary repair items could lead to the renter withholding rent. This could be added as a goal to implement for Rock County. It would be ideal to see how surrounding counties handle these types of issues. There have been changes to the court rules that took place in 2022 regarding eviction and has resulted in positive changes for renters. It is possible that the eviction rate has not gone down but there still has been progress. There are consultants revising the court rules to ensure that they are the most current.

Rock County Board Budgeted ARPA Funds for Affordable Housing:

Review Resolution Prepared for Action by P&D Committee and County Board August 8th

Director Baker began the discussion about the resolution prepared to bring before the P&D Committee and the County Board on August 8th, 2024. This resolution has summarized everything the Housing Authority has completed so far to get the concluding results. The funds have previously been budgeted.

The Housing Authority unanimously offered support for the resolution, no formal action is necessary.

Update Regarding Planning Efforts:

Review Revised Schedule

Director Baker began discussion about the consultant firm that was gathering information of Rock County regarding housing. The entire planned scheduling was delayed a week due to the restructuring of the consultant firm. The first draft of the report is due August 9th, 2024. All of August, there will be a review of the information collected with recommended plans referenced. There will be discussion at the next Housing Authority meeting on September 4, 2024. The results of the report should be finalized for approval in October 2024.

Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics:

Discussion of involvement from municipalities near and including Beloit and Janesville for support. Uncover further grant opportunities for Legal Action to continue work throughout Rock County. The request to contract Michael Bassford to come in and discuss housing issues he has uncovered.

Adjournment:

Ms. Udell made the motion to adjourn at 9:59 AM. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion.
ADOPTED

Next meeting: 09/04/2024 at 9:00AM

Respectfully submitted,
Ilana Eisenberg, Office Coordinator