

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 7, 2021
9:00 A.M.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center
Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room

Members Present: Rachel Nelson, Chair; Pauline Jaquish, Secretary/ Treasurer; Julie Griffis; Tamara Buswinka

Members Absent: Gary Buren, Vice Chair

Others Present: Lisa Sagala, County Controller/Administrator; Marc Miller, Director of Economic Development; Lindsey Traeger, Recording Secretary

Rachel Nelson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. Roll was taken by the Recording Secretary.

No public comment.

This special meeting was scheduled to discuss what we would like to do with the potential ARPA funds we may receive from the County.

Ms. Nelson sent out, along with the agenda, a letter from the Michigan Association of Land Banks. They shared eligible uses for ARPA funds.

Ms. Sagala shared that some counties have already given funds to their Land Banks. The Counties must report that they gave funds to them. She also shared that it would be nice to fix up some houses, for example, in the Maxwell Town area.

Ms. Buswinka & Ms. Jaquish mentioned that we should send out a letter to Township Supervisors and Village Presidents and explain to them what we are wanting to accomplish and request feedback from them. Ms. Nelson mentions the Regional Summit, which is coming up on September 16, 2021, and how that would be a great opportunity to share information. We could request that the local municipalities send something to us if they think they may have a project. We would want to give them time to meet with their board but also give a deadline, say by the end of October, to give us something for their project to be considered. It was mentioned that we should also reach out to non-profit organizations, such as Tiny Developers and Habitat for Humanity.

Ms. Griffis suggests that we give the Townships and Villages examples and ideas of what the Land Bank is all about and what we do. Ms. Nelson plans on having a brochure ready for us to review at the regular meeting on September 13th.

Ms. Sagala mentioned that MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) has asked the State to match funds. This might be an additional opportunity.

Mr. Miller shared that there is a potential opportunity to convert a highly visible, blighted property to a production facility; manufacturing, that would create jobs, not housing. Mr. Miller has had several meetings and serious discussions on this.

Mr. Miller mentioned that maybe we could develop an agreement with the Townships to loan funds for a project or projects, and we could pay them back once the sale is final. This would free up additional funds and it would be good to partner with the local municipalities.

Ms. Buswinka suggested that we put a write up in the newspaper sooner rather than later to inform the public of the Land Bank and what we do.

Ms. Sagala reports that we haven't received final rules on ARPA funds so the County Board will not be acting on them until further notice. We have some time to prepare and get a plan.

There is an MTA (Manistee Township Association) dinner at the end of the month which would be a great opportunity to share information.

Ms. Nelson mentioned that it would be good to get volunteers involved, especially younger individuals. There might be opportunities with the school system, Armory Youth Project, Jaycees, Lions, etc.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pauline Jaquish, Land Bank Authority Secretary/Treasurer