

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Pope County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board
September 6, 2023

The September 6, 2023, regular meeting of the Pope County HRA-EDA was held at the Pope County Courthouse – Community Meeting Room and was called to order by Chairperson Lori Vaadeland at 11:02 a.m. with the following members present Commission Paul Gremmels, Commissioner Paul Gerde, Lori Vaadeland, Jason Rupp, and Greg Vold. Staff present was Jason Murray. Melanie Stegner, Pope County Tribune, was also present. Invited guest was Jeff Hess, Executive Director, Alexandria HRA.

Vaadeland asked for any additional items. A motion by Rupp, seconded by Vold, to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried unanimously.

Vaadeland introduced Hess and thanked him for attending our meeting. Murray noted he invited Hess to discuss local housing trust funds as the City of Alexandria was one of the first cities in Minnesota to establish a fund. Murray also noted that he included in the packet, information on Statewide Affordable Housing Aid for 2023 and 2024 for Pope County allocation.

Hess noted the housing trust fund is a tool to fund and incentivize all types of housing development, with Alexandria primarily focusing on workforce housing. Hess shared that through the policy, housing trust funds are a great way to use these housing dollars with local control. Hess noted, referencing the Alexandria policy, goals of the program as:

1. Homebuyer assistance – up to \$15,000, zero interest loan.
2. Owner occupied housing rehabilitation.
3. Rental property rehabilitation.

Hess shared that the City started with roughly \$180,000 in investment, contributed by the EDA, HRA, and City revolving loan funds. Hess shared examples of how the homebuyer assistance program, highlighting realtor and lender training, process of approval and administration of the program. Hess shared matching MN Housing dollars, along with use of the State Affordable Housing Aid approved by the legislature in 2023.

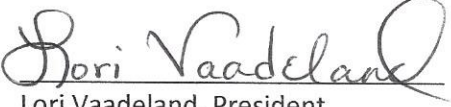
The Board discussed housing trust fund setup process and discussed Alex HRA's housing construction program.

Hess thanked the Board for their time and offered to be a resource if the HRA-EDA pursued a housing trust fund.

Public Comment: Vold shared information regarding the 2023 breakfast on the farm event, with roughly 2,000 participants. Vold suggested the HRA-EDA sponsorship of the event, noting the 2024 event will be held at Anderson Farms.

Adjourn: A motion by Gerde, seconded by Vold, to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m., motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Lori Vaadeland, President


Jason Rupp, Secretary