

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pope County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board  
February 7, 2024

The February 7, 2024, the regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lori Vaadeland at 11:00 a.m. with the following members present; Allan Rutter, Commissioner Paul Gremmels, Commissioner Paul Gerde, Lori Vaadeland, Greg Vold, and Jason Rupp. Also, present was Jason Murray, Kersten Kappmeyer, and Melanie Stegner from Pope County Tribune was in attendance.

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

Public Comment: Murray shared a community meeting announcement on the proposed line route Big Stone to Alexandria power line project. Murray shared an article on a tiny home development for veterans in Becker County.

Official Proceedings: A motion by Vold, seconded by Gremmels, to approve the January 17, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Bills: A motion by Rupp, seconded by Rutter, to approve the following list of bills as presented, having been duly audited and ordered them paid, motion carried unanimously:

Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust	1,954.00
Minnesota Department of Revenue	6.00
Internal Revenue Service	489.60
Wangsness Ogdahl	508.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>508.80</b>

Fremad Site RFP: Murray shared that no RFP's were received by the February 2, 2024, deadline. Murray noted that at a minimum, the HRA-EDA board the gave all interested parties an equal opportunity to propose a project. The Board discussed holding the property, insurance costs, and final work to be performed by the contractor in the spring.

No action was taken by the Board.

Pope County Housing Trust Fund: Murray shared the Board of Commissioners for Pope County approved the HRA request to assign the MN Statewide Affordable Housing Act (SAHA) dollars allocated to Pope County the trust fund. Murray noted the amount of SAHA funds to be allocated is \$180,294. Murray noted the initial priority was to support down payment assistance but that the Board should have a strategic conversation on the priority of those dollars. Murray noted for sale homes in Pope County are limited, with only two to three homes listed below \$200,000, noting mostly large home and lakes homes on the MLS listing. Murray questioned if the Board needs to prioritize the dollars in making more development lots available for housing construction.

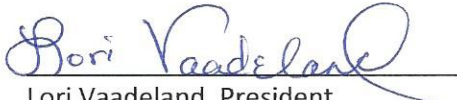
The Board discussed the property in Starbuck (former mobile home park), with Gerde cautioning that infrastructure may be needed to fully develop the area. Murray shared the recent outreach on the property, with no success in contacting the owner. Vaadeland indicated she would try to reach out to the owner.

The Board discussed land options, cost of infrastructure, and the potential of a work session to strategize priorities on housing development.

Additional Item: Gerde asked if anyone on the Board had heard of the concept "City of Minnewaska." Board discussed its background, connection to planning from Larry Zavadil and his team.

Adjourn: A motion by Vold, seconded by Gerde, to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m., motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

  
Lori Vaadeland, President

  
Greg Vold, Secretary