

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Roll was called. Present: Ms. Meyette, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Christians, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Morse. Absent: Mr. Walker.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; and Mr. Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Ms. Meyette to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021, Planning & Environmental Services Committee.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

No public comment on agenda items.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution to reappoint members to the Oceana County Land Bank Board. He provided a brief explanation of the responsibilities of the Land Bank and the process of land acquisition by that board.

Mr. Morse asked if the recent court case in eastern Michigan impacted Oceana County's foreclosure property sales.

Dr. Sobie explained that everything related to foreclosing property and tax sale is under lawsuit in eastern Michigan. It will impact Oceana County and every county in Michigan. The lawsuit is in regards to funds that are received from the sale of the property that are over and above what the creditor is owed. The lawsuit suggests that those funds should be returned to the foreclosee. The Supreme Court had a ruling that favored the original property owner.

Dr. Sobie sought consideration of a resolution to approve a continuation agreement to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for emergency home repair projects. He recommended continuing the agreement with NCCS Center for Nonprofit Housing to service as a qualified third-party administrator, however there is need for some edits in the resolution by NCCS updating the administrative share, new dollar amounts available, dates of the program, etc.

Ms. Meyette clarified that at some point the funds will be depleted. Dr. Sobie agreed, stating that the outstanding liens will eventually all be paid off.

Dr. Sobie explained that the current program issues grants, not loans, and so those funds are not repaid and will reduce the amount received in the program year.

Mr. Hardy clarified that NCCS would be the program administrator.

Dr. Sobie stated that initially he recommended that NCCS administer the program. He also stated that his office could be the administrator if the Board chose to change that. The administrator of the program receives an 18% administrative fee as the program is very involved in regards to paperwork and coordination. The Board could also change the program distributions from grants to loans at some point if they choose.

Mr. Morse asked if the block grants were still being awarded to counties. Dr. Sobie replied that the program ended in 2015.

No public comment at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Morse adjourned the Planning and Environmental Services meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk