

Blair County Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board Emergency Meeting
April 1, 2020
2:30 PM

Attendance: Scott Durbin, Jim Gehret, H. Barton Hann, Bruce Erb, Melissa Gillin, Sergio Carmona, Jim Hudack

Meeting was called to order by Jim Hudack.

Discussion occurred regarding the COVID 19 pandemic and the need to find temporary housing for the homeless population in Blair County to control the potential spread of the virus. Sergio reported that there are currently 140 individual/ family units in Blair County that are homeless. A taskforce has been developed to address the needs to create some type of temporary housing for these individuals until this pandemic is over. The taskforce has been exploring various options for housing. The challenge is state and federal funding will not be available immediately. Various agencies are working on getting funds fast tracked to be able to address this concern across the Commonwealth. Once these funds are released, they can be used to meet this housing need. If we are to engage stakeholders, we need to assure them that some funds are available to cover the costs until the funds are released from the state and federal governments. As a temporary solution we are requesting approval from the Advisory Board to commit up to \$50,000.00 from the Affordable Housing Trust fund to cover the costs until other funding is made available. It is also our hope that the funds from the Affordable Housing Trust fund will be reimbursed once other funding sources are obtained.

Motion by H. Barton Hann and second by Scott Durbin: To commit up to \$50,000.00 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund towards the temporary housing of the homeless in Blair County during the COVID 19 pandemic. These funds can be used for motel vouchers or 30 day agreements with Blair County landlords for rental of housing units. Motion Approved.

Actions will be taken by the Department of Social Services to recoup these funds through other funding source or the CARES Act.

A request was received from the City of Altoona regarding a property located at 1310 12th Street. This is an old church that has been detreating for the past few years. Numerous have been made by the city to have the current owner either make repairs or tear down the building. Altoona has even taken the owner to court a few times. After going through the necessary legal procedures the city now has site control and wants to demolish the building due to the safe hazards of piece falling away from the building onto the sidewalks. The city has estimates of the total cost to be around \$100,000.00 for the demolition and hauling away of debris. They are requesting \$10,000.00 from the Demolition Fund to help pay for some of these costs.

Motion by Scott Durbin and second by Jim Gehret: To commit \$10,000.00 towards the demolition of a property located at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA. The estimated total cost of this project will be \$100,000.00 with the City of Altoona committing \$90,000.00 towards the project. Motion Approved.

Follow up items: Commissioners approved \$4,999.00 towards furnace replacement at 2312 14th Avenue, Altoona; \$5,900.00 towards a new roof at 206 Sickles Corner, Tyrone, PA; \$10,000.00 to TEAM Efforts for projects this summer; \$6,950.00 towards demolition of a property located 1420 Washington Street, Altoona, PA.

Wednesday, May 13th is the next scheduled meeting at 8:15 AM. Based on the environmental reading at that time, we may be doing this meeting via conference call. If we do, I will be get out the call in information.