



Business Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 1, 2025

Commission Members Present: David Anderson, Kizzy Bradford, Patrese Griffin (present at 4:51pm), and Gwendolyn Hooker

Commission Members Absent: Coty Dunten

Kalamazoo County Commissioner Present: None

Kalamazoo County Staff Present: None

Administrative Service Provider and Recording Secretary Present: Holly Dean, and Lisa Willcutt

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at the Kalamazoo County Building, Board Chambers, 201 West Kalamazoo Avenue by President Griffin at 5:01p.m. Willcutt conducted the roll call.

A motion was made to excuse Dunten's absence.

Motion by Anderson

Support by Hooker

Motion approved

Approve Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

Motion by Hooker

Support by Anderson

Motion approved

Approve Minutes of the April 3, 2025 Meeting

Griffin asked for approval of the meeting minutes from April 3, 2025. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion by Hooker

Support by Anderson

Motion approved

Public Comment on Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items

Dorease Braxton Russell lives at Crosstown Parkway Apartments. She is concerned about the rust that is in her water. She says the last few months have been like this and management is not doing anything. Everyone in her building is a senior citizen and needs help from the housing authorities. She says that management tells her the rust in the water is the City of Kalamazoo's fault, but then the City of Kalamazoo says the management needs to replace the pipes. She brought pictures and a sample of the water to show the Board.

Reports

Financial Reports

The completed March 2025 financial reports were distributed prior to the meeting and were summarized by Willcutt. A motion was made to accept the financial reports as submitted.

Motion by Anderson

Support by Hooker

Motion approved

The April 2025 financial reports were distributed prior to the meeting and were summarized by Willcutt. A motion was made to accept the financial reports as submitted.

Motion by Hooker

Support by Anderson

Motion approved

Bethany House – A written report was distributed prior to the meeting and noted that several small repairs were made, and supplies were purchased to make new screens. The other upstairs bathtub was found to need a replacement drain and the drum style trap will be replaced with a p-trap. The quote for this service is \$1,111 and is expected to be performed without disturbing any drywall.

Veterans Initiative – A written report was distributed prior to the meeting and noted that no significant work, outside of pest control, occurred during the month.

FUSE – A written report of activity was distributed prior to the meeting and noted that no significant work occurred during the month.

Old Business

2015 Millage – Creating Permanent Housing – Sugarloaf

RFP for onsite Wraparound Services – Vice President Hooker stated the portal for the RFP grant has closed. No applicants for the RFP grant have been received. Commissioner Anderson and Vice President Hooker will work on coming up with recommendations for next month's meeting.

Millage Housing Expenses – President Griffin and Vice President Hooker agreed to table the phone purchase until next month's meeting.

Liability Insurance Bethany House, FUSE, and Keystone – Commissioner Anderson said he is working with Adam Wallace to obtain a price and proposal for this. He hopes to have both by next month's meeting.

New Business

None

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items



Dorease Braxton Russell would like to see what is in the water sample she brought to show the Board.

Commissioner Member Comments

Commissioner Anderson addressed Dorease's comment and suggested she contact the City of Kalamazoo to request a free in-home water test.

Vice President Hooker thanked everyone for showing up and sent her condolences to Dorease on the passing of her friend. She let everyone know there was a walk regarding gun violence that took place on April 30, 2025, and was well attended. She also encouraged everyone to stay tuned for JABS Month, which occurs in June.

Commissioner Bradford received a phone call from a community member with questions regarding issues occurring at the apartment she (community member) is living in. Commissioner Bradford would like the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission to hold a forum discussing rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants. She stated that tenants should know their rights when holding landlords accountable. Also, Commissioner Bradford mentioned that she was featured on the cover of He Reigns magazine for being the first African American to serve as a Trustee for Oshtemo Township.

President Griffin thanked Dorease for coming to the meeting. She stated she cannot make any guarantees about what the Board can do, but they can encourage and lift up participants. She also stated that this is the start of getting answers. Finally, she gave Dorease her condolences on the loss of her partner in the fight.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:33 pm

Submitted by: Holly Dean