

**Land Bank Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Courthouse Annex Conference room**  
**8/11/2016**

Meeting was called to order by: Bonnie Summers at 1:35 PM

**In attendance:**

- Vince Witherup-Commissioner
- Albert Abramovic-Commissioner
- Bonnie Summers-Chair
- Diona Brick-Fiscal
- Julie Thompson-Tax Claim
- Robert Walter-Assessment
- Barb Cisek McGarvey-Residential Representative
- Paul Calderone-Residential Representative
- Jason Ruggiero-Planning
- Emily Donaldson-Planning
- Nancy Marano-Emlenton Borough
- Mary Swisher-Assessment
- William Moon Jr-City of Oil City
- Curtis Greene-City of Oil City
- Koah Pentz-Cranberry Township
- Sarah McGuinness-Planning
- Bill Buchna – Housing
- Pat Owec – Housing
- Warren Thomas – Public
- Timothy Staub – Cornplanter Twp.

Introductions were made for the guest in attendance. Guest in attendance were: Warren Thomas, Bill Buchna and Pat Owec, Housing, and Timothy Staub, Cornplanter Twp.

Motion was made by Nancy Marano to accept last month's meeting minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Cisek McGarvey, all in favor.

**Old Business:** Update from Albert Abramovic on the Lintz Property being sold the neighbor instead of the City of Franklin. Albert stated he is still waiting for a call back from the neighbor. Julie stated that as of August 16, 2016 the property can be transferred. Julie was asked to write a letter to the neighbor explaining that we will be transferring the property to the City of Franklin if we do not hear from him soon. He was also advised that he could contact the City of Franklin after the transfer.

**Update on the properties purchased by the Municipalities:**

Bill Moon stated that the demo has been completed for the 9 E. Bissell property and just need seeded.

**New Business:**

Julie Thompson that she received a call from Oil City resident Lisa Littler, who is concerned about 2 parcels that are on this year's Upset Tax Sale list. The owners are deceased and the house is vacant and in bad shape. There is a lot next to it with a garage on it that they mow and are interested in but do not have the approximate \$1,000.00 upset sale price and would like our help. They also fear that a slum landlord will purchase the house. Julie invited her to the meeting to tell her story but she did not come. Julie was asked to write her a letter inviting her to the next meeting.

Warren Thomas spoke about building community gardens using very successful models from neighboring counties. An online survey was sent out and the majority of the responses were positive and they want gardens in their neighborhoods instead of large ones in community centers. The benefits include bringing people out of their homes and into their neighborhoods, teaches children where their food comes from, can be used as volunteer hours for students and can feed communities. Organizations like Rotary Clubs, Penn State Co-op and Vo-Tech are very interested in helping.

One problem is that if the garden is on private property, who covers the liability insurance. So, land owned by a municipality or the Land Bank would be a better option. Diona believes that if the Land Bank owned the community garden land, the County's insurance would cover the liability. She will check with the Commissioners. If the Land Bank could acquire repository properties for the gardens, it would solve some of the blight issues in that neighborhood and the insurance issues. Julie will get repository maps from Planning for Oil City and Franklin to help Warren find some possible lots for the gardens.

Nancy Marano made us aware of webinars about blight, Land Banks and Conservatorships from the PA Association of Boroughs on Sept. 14th, 20th, and 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. She will send Julie a reminder to send out to the members.

Timothy Staub, of Cornplanter Township, is interested in help from the Land Bank for properties in Cornplanter. Bill Moon explained how the Land Bank helped Oil City. Nancy Marano explained how Emlenton is budgeting money every year to be prepared for when the Land Bank can help them. Julie Thompson explained how the tax sales work and how the municipalities work with Tax Claim.

Jason Ruggiero said that the PHARE money is a funding source that the Land Bank may be able to use in the future. Right now the County can apply and Oakland Township also qualifies.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday September 8, 2016 at 1:30 PM

Albert Abramovic made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 PM. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vince Witherup, all in favor.

Submitted by:  
Julie Thompson