



**ROCK COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
**Monday, August 1, 2011 - 8:30 A.M.**  
**P & D Conference Room 270**  
**Second Floor, East Wing**  
**Rock County Courthouse**  
**Janesville, WI**

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Billy Bob Grahn called the meeting to order at 8:45 A.M.  
**Members Present:** Vice Chair Billy Bob Grahn, Anda O'Connell, Jackie Wood,  
**Members Absent:** Chair Brian Christianson, Anna Marie Johnson  
**Staff Members Present:** David Somppi, Neale Thompson  
**Staff Members Absent:** None  
**Others Present:** None
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda for meeting of August 1, 2011, by Com'r. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Com'r. O'Connell. Motion carried.
3. **Minutes of Meeting from May 2, 2011.** Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from May 2, 2011, by Com'r. O'Connell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Com'r. Wood. Motion passed.
4. **Review of Loan Request - #06086 D-1:** Mr. Somppi reported that this down payment purchase project had been in the works since May while about ten other Home Purchase Assistance projects have not reached completion. In addition, this project is in cooperation with the USDA Rural Development Housing Program. There is likely a rehab loan to be approved in the very near future. For this other program, all repairs must be made before the new family moves in. After discussion of this Home Purchase Assistance loan in the Town of Plymouth, the board supported the \$4,400 0% interest deferred loan. Com'r. Wood made the motion that was seconded by Com'r. O'Connell. The motion passed.
5. **Secretary's Report:** Mr. Somppi repeated that another meeting is likely in two weeks to approve the rehab part of the above project. Because of the relative lack of Home Purchase Assistance projects, the Housing Action Plan goal of 10 loans may not be reached and more rehab loans substituted instead. More HOME Consortium Projects will be forthcoming, although other projects are important for the current CDBG Small Cities grants for Edgerton and Rock County. Mr. Somppi reported that there were many regulatory changes in the last few months that have changed and improved the policies and procedures of the Housing and Community Development section.
6. **Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** The previously discussed documentary film "1649" about school-age homelessness in Rock County was shown at this regular Planning and Development committee meeting. Much discussion followed the screening. The film was aired at the Beloit Film Festival and shown last week at the Wisconsin Homeless Conference in Stevens Point. The goal of a shelter for such homeless students is making slow progress because of the mass of state and federal regulations along with the extensive credentials needed to work with homeless children. That housing project has been going officially for 3 years but actually started 7 years ago. Vice Chair Grahn discussed how the homeless students are in a very vulnerable situation and often leave a family situation where there is chronic substance abuse that leads the student to conclude that they would be safer on the streets. There is no law or statute that can require parents to enter some treatment program. Vice Chair

Grahn added that the economic hard times have increased the stress and even increased the amount of child abuse in these homes. The summer homeless count took place on July 27, 2011 and did count 11 homeless people in Beloit and 21 in the Janesville shelter. The homeless living in the rural areas are not counted because they are on private property and generally not seen. It was noted that Dane County homeless efforts receive funding from the county, city, and town levels. Rock County does not have that support. ECHO is keeping open despite and financial crisis in recent weeks.

7. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Com'r. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Chair Grahn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Neale Thompson, Assistant Secretary

(Planning\Housing Specialist\HA Meetings\Minutes\Minutes-08-01-11)

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