

**MINUTES
AMSTERDAM URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
MEETING OF DECEMBER 30, 2013
CITY HALL
URA OFFICES**

Board Members

Chairman Robert Martin

Arthur Cotugno

Anthony Pallotta

Excused

Michael LaCoppola

Press

Jay Towne, Mohawk Valley Compass

Absent

Mayor Thane

Bob Fetterly

Staff:

Nick Zabawsky

Anne DeGroff

1. Meeting called to order at 6: 33 PM by Chairman Bob Martin.
2. Approval of Minutes of 8/13/13 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cotugno and seconded by Mr. Pallotta minutes were accepted and approved by all.
3. Finance Report was presented by Mr. Zabawsky. There are issues with one loan outstanding. Chairman Martin suggested we have Corporation Counsel De Cusatis send out a collection letter. Mr. Zabawsky updated the Board on the pending foreclosure action. Mr. Cotugno motioned to accept the Finance Report and this was seconded by Mr. Pallotta and motion carried.
4. Grants & Projects Mr. Zabawsky presented a report on grants administered by the Agency during 2013. Project completed this year include NY Main Street project, Phase Two of Sewer Separation and Riverlink Phase II. Storm Sewer Phase III is in progress and Storm Sewer Phase IV has just been awarded a 600K Grant. Discussion ensued on the problems that exist with the sewer lines in Amsterdam and how many problems are due to the large amount of bedrock in the city and the way some of the sewer lines previously were routed around the bedrock.
5. Old Business Mr. Pallotta inquired what happened to the proposal Mr. Fiacco brought before the Board in August. Outside of a phone call from the architect in regard to zoning laws , there has been no further communication in regard to the lot on Church St.
6. New Business

Mr. Zabawsky discussed the recent settlement involving JP Morgan Chase which involves a \$600M settlement going to the NYS Attorney General. These funds will be used to assist homeowners who are underwater and to provide funding to land banks. Amsterdam may be well positioned to receive significant funding through this settlement. Chairman Martin is on the Land Bank Committee of the Amsterdam-Schenectady- Albany area and he discussed previous efforts to obtain AG funding, and the need for the participating cities to become more involved in the land bank program. Mr. Pallotta agreed that outreach to the Common Council was a good idea and would assist in that effort. Land Bank officers, Mr. Martin and Mr. Zabawsky will appear before a Common Council meeting to present the program, once the new council members are on the seated.

Mr. Zabawsky reported that Federal funds awarded to the City have been unfrozen, after the Single Audit report for Federal funds was submitted. The Agency is still waiting for its own audit to satisfy PAAA requirements. Chairman Martin suggested that Mr. Zabawsky call our auditor and emphasize a document was signed by Board officers that this audit would be done by now and encourage him to get the report in ASAP.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM on a motion made by Mr. Pallotta and seconded by Mr. Cotugno.