Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Houston County Land Bank May 16, 2019

Chairman Brian Jones called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Board of Directors in attendance: Brian Jones, Willie King, David "Skeet" Hulbert, Penny Byrd, and Larry Thomson

Staff members in attendance: Mark Kushinka, Houston County Tax Commissioner; Tim Andrews, Houston County Building Official; Bryan Wood, City of Perry Director of Community Development; and Danny Hicks, City of Perry Code Compliance Specialist

Guests in attendance: Cater Thompson, Attorney with Jones Cork, LLP, Macon; Randall Walker, City of Perry Councilman; Robert Smith, City of Perry Assistant City Manager; Kate Hogan, City of Centerville Director of Economic Development and Marketing; Fenika Miller, Director, New Vision MSK Inc.

The Board approved the minutes of their March 21, 2019 meeting as submitted.

In new business: Ms. Cater Thompson discussed her experience with the Macon-Bibb Land Bank. She reviewed the procedures for an in rem judicial property sale which can take 6-8 months to obtain clear title to a property. This process requires up front legal fees and certain notices be made, but establishes a clear title. The Board asked questions about how this procedure is used in Macon.

Wood asked the Board to consider a property at 1118 Jewell Drive. He stated that Bill Goggins, Executive Director of Houston County Habitat for Humanity, indicated interest in the property for an eligible Perry family on his waiting list. Following discussion of the property, Board Member Hulbert moved to begin the in rem judicial process and to accept the parcel at 1118 Jewell Drive (tax map number 0P0300 027000) into the land bank, subject to City Council allocation of the necessary funds. Board Member Penny Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Wood asked about a property at 1212 Jackson Lane which has a property owner listed as "unknown". Kushinka explained that he has done some title work on this property but leads to a dead end. Further work would be needed to establish an owner in order to meet notice requirements if the Board were interested in this property.

In other business: Wood informed the Board that the City has obtained insurance coverage for the Board and its members.

Wood also asked the Board's thoughts on accumulating properties over a period of time in areas of special emphasis. This may require the Board to hold properties longer than originally anticipated in order to accumulate enough properties in a particular area to make a difference in the community. Hulbert said he thought the Board's purpose was to cooperate with and to carry out the wishes of the City and County to acquire tax delinquent properties all in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Houston County Land Bank. The other members of the Board concurred with Mr. Hulbert.

Brian Jones, Chair Absent
Penny Byrd, Board Member David P Ight David Hulbert, Board Member

Larry Thompson, Board Member

With no other business, the Board adjourned at 4:20 pm.