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CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
RECEIVERSHIP TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 8, 2016

City of Benton Harbor Receivership Transition Advisory
Board Meeting held 3/8/16 at Commission Chambers,
Benton Harbor City Hall, 200 East Wall Street, Benton
Harbor, Michigan at 1:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY: Ms. Alison R. Huffman - CSR-0945
Certified Court Reporter

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3 BOARD MEMBERS:

4 MR. LARRY STECKELBERG (Chairman)

5 MS. SHARON HUNT

6 MR. BRET WITKOWSKI

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9 TREASURY STAFF:

10 MR. ROBERT WIDIGAN

11 MS. DEANNA HUDSON

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14 BENTON HARBOR STAFF:

15 MR. DARWIN WATSON (City Manager)

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1 Benton Harbor, Michigan

2 Tuesday, March 8, 2016 - 1:00 p.m.

3 MR. STECKELBERG: Good afternoon.

I'd like to call to order the March 8th meeting
5 of the Receivership Transition Advisory Board for the City
6 of Benton Harbor.

7 Please take the roll.

8 MS. HUDSON: Sharon Hunt?

9 MS. HUNT: Here.

10 MS. HUDSON: Bret Witkowski?

11 MR. WITKOWSKI: Here.

12 MS. HUDSON: A quorum is present.

13 MR. STECKELBERG: Here.

14 MS. HUDSON: Larry Steckelberg. I'm sorry.

15 MR. STECKELBERG: The approval of the Agenda.

16 Before we get to that, I would like to amend
17 that Agenda. We have two additional items which are
18 sitting before you. Item Number 7 is a change of polling
19 location, which was approved by the City Commission, and
20 Number 8, which is a resolution in support of an apartment
21 building renovation project, both of which have some
22 timeliness in submission of various documents to get
23 things moving.

24 So I would like to add those as Items Number 7

1 without objection. We'll amend the Agenda to include
2 those items.

3 So a motion to approve the Agenda?

4 MR. WITKOWSKI: I'll make that motion.

5 MS. HUNT: I second.

6 MR. STECKELBERG: All those in favor?

7 MS. HUNT: Aye.

8 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

9 MR. STECKELBERG: Aye.

10 Approval of the RTAB Minutes of December 17th,
11 2015.

12 MR. WITKOWSKI: I'll make that motion.

13 MS. HUNT: I second.

14 MR. STECKELBERG: All those in favor?

15 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

16 MS. HUNT: Aye.

17 MR. STECKELBERG: Aye.

18 Under Old Business, we're going to have a
19 presentation on the evaluation report for the RTAB,
20 actually, the evaluation of the city and its current
21 involvement in F-436 receivership.

22 I will turn this over to Rob Widigan.

23 MR. WIDIGAN: All right. So on March 10th of
24 2014, this Board was appointed to serve in the City of

25 Benton Harbor at the conclusion of Tony Saunders' term as

1 Emergency Manager. With this appointment, the RTAB was
2 tasked with conducting a formal evaluation of the City's
3 operational and financial progress, noting benchmarks
4 achieved and not yet achieved, including a list of
5 specific recommendations and potential resources
6 available to the City. This evaluation covers the period
7 from March 10th, 2014 to March 10th of 2015.

8 I'll just go over the process. The annual
9 evaluation was intended to determine the City's
10 operational and financial progress and provide a list of
11 specific recommendations and other constructive feedbacks
12 that will promote and ensure the City's long-term
13 sustainability.

14 Treasury staff has developed evaluation
15 criteria based on the contents of the Governor's
16 appointment letters of the RTAB members and Public Act 436
17 of 2012 and the final order which was left by Tony
18 Saunders.

19 The evaluation is designed to gauge certain
20 performance indicators, the degree of continued State
21 oversight, the implementation of best practices and the
22 City's involvement in future planning.

23 Treasury staff interviewed each member of the
24 RTAB individually and, in addition, met with mayor -- at

1 comment, any Board Comment?

2 MR. WITKOWSKI: Looking forwarding to meeting
3 less.

4 MR. STECKELBERG: Well, yes, and this --
5 although I believe I said this at the last meeting, I
6 believe this is my last meeting, and if all goes well,
7 the Governor will have an opportunity to appoint a new
8 person to the Board to launch the new lesser active RTAB
9 schedule.

10 MR. WIDIGAN: And this is also likely my last
11 meeting as Deanna will be working --

12 MR. STECKELBERG: Oh, yeah, Deanna Hudson with
13 Treasury will be staffing the RTAB and our activities from
14 our office of fiscal responsibility.

15 MS. HUDSON: Yes.

16 MR. STECKELBERG: And --

17 MS. HUNT: I'd like to make one comment.

18 MR. STECKELBERG: Yes.

19 MS. HUNT: I'd like to say congrats to the
20 City of Benton Harbor for getting to the point where we
21 are today, you know, kudos to everyone that worked so
22 hard, City Manager, Commissioners to get to this point
23 and to the point where the RTAB is really having to pull
24 back and to meet quarterly, so that says a lot to the

25 City and to what you've done to make that happen, so as

1 a resident of Benton Harbor, I'd like to say thank you.

2 MR. WATSON: Thank you.

3 MR. STECKELBERG: If there are no further
4 comments, I move we adjourn.

5 We're adjourned.

6 (At 1:21 p.m. meeting adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE

State of Michigan

County of Van Buren

I certify that this transcript, consisting of 22 pages,
is a complete, true and correct record of the RTAB Meeting
held 3/8/2016.

Alison R. Huffman - CSR-0945
Certified Court Reporter
Notary Public in and for
Van Buren County, Michigan
Commission Expires: 8/19/2019

