MINUTES OF THE STARK COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION
October 19, 2026

The Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation met for their regular meeting on Monday, October 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Community Meeting Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY SCLRC VICE-CHAIRMAN, Bill Smith

2. ROLL CALL – Board Members Present

Roll call found the following board members in attendance: Bill Smith, Alex Zumbar, Peter Zahirsky and Alan Harold.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 MEETING

Harold moved and Zahirsky seconded and the motion carried to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2026 meeting. Smith abstained.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKS - none

5. TREASURER/FISCAL REPORT

Heather Cunningham reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of September. Zumbar moved and Harold seconded and the motion carried to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

6. SIDE LOT/VACANT LOT PROGRAM REPORT

Sarah Peters provided the Side Lot/Vacant Lot Program Updates for September.

Zumbar moved and Zahirsky seconded and the motion carried to approve the Side Lot/Vacant Lot Reports as submitted.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Targeted Acquisition Assistance Requests

- City of Massillon – 2 parcels

Peters reviewed the Targeted Acquisition Program requests. The Land Bank received applications from the City of Massillon for two parcels with one property on 11th Street and another property on Chester Ave SE. Both are unoccupied, abandoned, and tax-delinquent residential structures on lots that the city is interested in acquiring so that they can pursue demolition. Both properties' values are in excess of the delinquent taxes owed and therefore would go to sheriffs' sale.

Zumbar moved and Zahirsky seconded and the motion carried to approve the Targeted Acquisition Assistance Requests as submitted.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. FY2027 – Demolition & Site Revitalization Program – Grant Application

Peters provided a handout of applications that were submitted to Ohio Department of Development. Applications included commercial properties and batches of residential structures. Funding is competitive, and the Land Bank will await notification of which projects are awarded grants.

Grant applications submitted for Commercial projects were as follows:

- Former Orchard Hill School in North Canton, requesting $220,500.
- Former Fairmount Learning Center on Coventry Boulevard in Canton, requesting $318,600.
- McKinley Park Apartments on High Avenue in Canton with subrecipient SMHA, requesting $1,404,648.

Grant applications submitted for Residential projects were as follows:

- City of Canton: 31 residential structures, requesting $311,014.
- Village of Minerva: Community Building, requesting $33,623.
- City of Alliance: Seven residential structures, requesting $63,788.
- Lexington Township: Two residential structures, requesting $26,655.

Members also discussed how the cities would obtain ownership of the former school properties, noting that a formal procedure is required. The discussion referenced both the cities of Canton and North Canton entered into land exchange “land swap” agreements with the respective school districts.

b. Stark Ceramics Update

John Anthony gave an update regarding the former Stark Ceramics property, including the completed Phase I report and a Phase II investigation plan. The Ohio EPA reviewed the Phase I report and determined that additional Phase II analysis was required. The Phase II plan was submitted in September, and the project is awaiting further Ohio EPA comments before remediation work can proceed.

Harold stated the Ohio EPA indicated that it hopes to provide comments within approximately 30 days, around November 15, with the goal of moving the process forward. U.S. EPA is reportedly willing to provide the necessary sign-off once the required work is completed.

The delays continue to affect potential redevelopment, including Knight Material Technology’s interest in acquiring a portion of the property for expansion. The importance of the Land Bank being copied on all future correspondence was emphasized. Because the environmental review and remediation process remains ongoing, the board discussed extending the developer’s agreement for another year.

Zumbar moved and Harold seconded and the motion carried to extend the developer’s agreement for another year with continued regular progress reports and oversight by the Land Bank's attorney.

9. NEXT MEETING – November 16, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNED