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For Immediate Release

Warren Holds Its First Organizational Meeting of the Warren Land Bank Authority

Warren, MI (Feb. 11, 2025) – The City of Warren announces the successful conclusion of its inaugural organizational meeting of the Warren Land Bank Authority, marking a significant milestone in the city's efforts to manage underutilized properties and stimulate economic growth. The meeting, held on Monday, Feb. 10, at the Warren Community Center, brought together local leaders to lay the groundwork for the Land Bank Authority, a newly formed entity that will acquire, maintain, and repurpose vacant and abandoned, tax-delinquent properties throughout Warren. This initiative aims to manage surplus properties, reduce blight, and improve land use in the community.

The **Warren Land Bank Authority Board of Directors** is comprised of the following members:

1. Richard Fox, Warren City Controller
2. Lorie Barnwell, Warren City Treasurer
3. Jonathan Lafferty, Warren City Council Member
4. Mindy Moore, Warren City Council Secretary
5. Diane Young, Appointed Member

Key highlights of the inaugural meeting:

- **Election of Interim Officers:** Mindy Moore - Chairperson, Lorie Barnwell - Vice Chairperson
- **Create Workgroup to Draft Bylaws:** Bylaws due within six months. Jonathan Lafferty and Diane Young will lead the workgroup.
- **Michigan Association of Land Banks:** The Board of Directors will consider joining the Michigan Association of Land Banks, an organization dedicated to supporting land banks across the state of Michigan. The membership fee varies according to a land bank’s budget. Warren’s fee is estimated to be approximately $1,000-2,000 annually.

- **Budget:** The Board of Directors will submit a request to the mayor asking for $25,000 from the city's general fund to start the land bank, which would be repaid once the Land Bank's revenue is established.
- **Meeting Schedule:** Meetings of the Warren Land Bank Authority will be held the 4th Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m.
- **Land Bank 101 Program:** The Board of Directors will extend a formal invitation to the State Land Bank Authority (SLBA), headed by Director Joseph Rivet, to conduct a program, open to the public, that provides information about land banks, including what they are, how they are formed, and what they can accomplish for a community.
- **Legal Counsel:** The Warren Land Bank Authority will utilize legal counsel provided by the Plunkett Cooney law firm, under the same terms as outlined by the city council.

Warren Mayor Lori M. Stone expressed enthusiasm for the project, stating, "The creation of the Warren Land Bank Authority represents a tremendous opportunity for our city. By strategically addressing blighted properties and working to reintegrate them into the community, we will foster a more vibrant, welcoming Warren for all."

"I am looking forward to working with all branches of government in creating strategic plans to strengthen neighborhoods," said Warren City Treasurer Lorie Barnwell. "This land bank will be an important tool to allow for more resident input and collaboration."

The Warren Land Bank Authority will play an integral role in the city's long-term vision to build a stronger, more resilient community. With key leadership roles in place, and the first meeting complete, the Land Bank Authority is poised to be a transformative force in community revitalization efforts across Warren.

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