



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00441

Agenda Date: 9/19/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Approve a Resolution adopting a new Policy on the Conveyance of County Properties and Surplus Land and authorize the Chair to sign.

Presenter:

Claudia Tuck, Community Support Services Director, (352) 264-6704
Stephen Weeks, Housing Program Manager, (352) 337-6285

Description:

Plan to distribute Escheated Properties.

Recommended Action:

Approve a Resolution adopting a new Policy on the Conveyance of County Properties and Surplus Land and authorize the Chair to sign.

Prior Board Motions:

None

Fiscal Note:

Proceeds from sale of Eligible Properties will be placed into the Alachua County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Strategic Guide:

Housing

Background:

The Department of Community Support Services, Housing Programs division is responsible for the management of county properties that have been used to create and preserve affordable housing. Section 125.379, Florida Statutes directs each county to prepare an inventory list of properties to which the County owns that has been deemed 'appropriate for affordable housing'. Effective July 1, 2023, State Bill (SB) (Laws of Florida 2023-17), cited as the Live Local Act amended Section 125.379, Florida. This proposed Policy incorporates the changes due to the new State law. This proposed Policy also defines what the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC and/or Board) finds as 'appropriate for affordable housing.' The BoCC has deemed 28 properties appropriate for affordable housing.

The existing Policy titled 'Conveyance of Surplus Real Property' was adopted by the BoCC by way of Resolution 2020-21. The existing Policy was found to need updating to, in part, be in compliance with

House Bill (HB) 102, to provide clear direction from the Board, to provide factors of what it means to be 'appropriate for affordable housing', and to provide direction of how to convey escheated and other County owned properties. The Policy is intended to direct means to preserve the affordability of the eligible properties for period of time or to return them to the tax rolls.

In accordance with applicable Florida law, the Policy authorizes an Affordable Housing Inventory List ("List") to be adopted by the Board and provides that Eligible Properties, as defined, on the List may be set-aside to use by the County for County programs/projects. Or, the Eligible Properties or may be disposed, conveyed or offered for sale, in accordance with the law: (1) to immediate prior owners if escheated property is heirs property, (2) to non-profit housing organizations who may receive the Eligible Property subject to agreement on certain conditions to help maintain affordability, or (3) to others by other means of conveyance such as bid, private sale, donation, or as authorized by law. This proposed Policy does not apply to surplus tangible personal property of the County. Properties on the Affordable Housing Inventory List may be removed from the list and determined to be Surplus Property at the discretion of the Board. After a County owned Property is found not to be or is found no longer to be appropriate for affordable housing, at the discretion of the Board the property will be Surplus Property to be appropriately disposed.

The proposed Policy attached has been reviewed by the Alachua County Affordable Housing Committee at a public meeting.