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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delaware County Land Bank Receives State Grant for Eyesore Demolitions

DELAWARE, Ohio (July 13, 2022) – The Delaware County Land Reutilization Corporation today announced that it has been awarded \$490,000 in demolition grants by the Ohio Department of Development.

The demolition grants will be used by the cities of Delaware, Powell and Sunbury to demolish blighted structures and return the property to productive use.

The Delaware County Land Reutilization Corporation, also known as the Delaware County Land Bank, approved a resolution at its meeting Tuesday to move forward with the projects. The proposal must now be sent to the Ohio Department of Development for final approval.

“This is just one example of the positive work the Delaware County Land Bank is capable of producing,” said David Stadge, the Delaware County Treasurer’s Office’s appointed representative to the land bank board of directors. “I’m confident that in the coming years the residents of Delaware County will see the positive impact of the land bank.”

Stadge said the land bank also requested a \$200,000 Brownfield Grant from the Ohio Department of Development. That request is still pending.

The buildings to be demolished are:

- The former Country Carry Out drive-thru located at 35 N. Liberty St. in Powell.
- The buildings at 7 and 27 Spring St. in Delaware. The 27 Spring St. location was the former NAPA Auto Parts store. The adjacent building was used as a storage building for the store.
- The buildings at 63 and 75 S. Columbus St. in Sunbury. These buildings are located on the southwest corner of W. Granville and S. Columbus streets, and catty-corner from the popular downtown square. Sunbury City Administrator Steve Pyles said the vacated land will be used to create additional parking and a

mini park, similar to the downtown gateway located at E. Cherry and S. Columbus streets.

“I’d like to commend Treasurer Donald E. Rankey Jr. for being the driving force in securing these demolition funds,” said developer Zenios Michael Zenios, who is working on a project for the Powell location. “By obtaining these demolition funds, we can quickly move our project along. This benefits the entire community of Powell as it enables us to create a commercial project that will bring dollars to the community, generate tax revenue, and contribute to the vitality of one of Central Ohio’s most vibrant communities.”

Rankey said he provided the services of Director of Revenue Recovery Jeff Jordan and City of Delaware Director of Planning and Community Development David Efland provided city staff services to finalize and submit the grant application packages.

“We are pleased that Delaware County was included in the state funding of this vital program,” Rankey said. “This marks the first funding the Delaware County Land Bank has received that was not a result of the operation of my office.”

The Delaware County Land Bank was established in January 2018. It exists to restore blighted properties. Restoring buildings and properties improves neighborhoods, increases property values, and creates tax revenue.

Donald E. Rankey was elected Delaware County Treasurer in 2020. He is the county’s chief investment officer and responsible for collecting more than \$660 million in annual property taxes from more than 90,000 parcels. His office also oversees an investment portfolio in excess of \$325 million.

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