

**April 8, 2026**  
**Berlin Economic Development Authority Meeting**  
**Berlin City Hall**

**Present were:** Chair Gabriella Goode, Peter Higbee, Andre Duchesne, Janet Nickerson, Dick Huot, Dick Eastman, and Paul Robitaille

**Excused were:** Steve Halle Vicky McMorrow, and Councilor Richard Plourde

**Others Present:** Clarence Sawyer; Peter Lazarz & Steve McCauley from Make My Move (via Zoom)

Chair Goode opened the meeting at 5:30PM

**Approval of March 2026 meeting minutes**

Ms. Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting as presented. Mr. Duchesne seconded the motion. So moved, the motion passed with all in favor.

**Financial Report**

Ms. Laflamme reviewed the financials with the board for March. There were only two expenses, one for the website and one for legal advice. The cash ending balance on March 31<sup>st</sup> was \$942,839.47. Mr. Higbee made a motion to approve the financials, seconded by Mr. Eastman. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Chair Goode indicated we would start with Item c under the ED Strategy.

**Economic Development Strategy**

Make My Move – The team from Make My Move shared a presentation with the board about how they started Make My Move and what they have been doing with it. It has so far largely been focused on the Midwest. They shared the variety of incentives communities offer. A lot of their outreach goes toward helping remote workers find the place that best suits them. The buy-in from a community needs to come from the local Chamber, local government, schools, employers, realtors, etc.

The incentives vary from cash, school loan repayments, coffee with the mayor, welcome baskets, etc. The rough number for the cost of this service was about \$10K per move. Communities decide how many individuals they are trying to attract. On average, about 600 people might apply/inquire and that may translate roughly into about 3 new families. They are committed to hitting the goals that are set by the community.

They shared several examples and showed how the website worked.

Clarence Sawyer, a new resident of Berlin, shared how he found their website and why he felt Berlin might benefit from the service. He has been here for about six months with his partner and they both are really happy with living here. They have made friends with both locals and others who have moved here for remote work. He likes the quietness of the area and the people. He remarked it is a beautiful area.

The board thanked Clarence, Peter, and Steve for their time.

Mr. Sawyer told the board that he would stay through public comments because he had something to discuss from the board's last meeting. The board allowed him to speak at that time. He shared that he disagreed with some of the points that were made about bringing a data center to the area. A conversation ensued with the board about how many jobs it might bring, the value of the taxes, the energy and water consumption. Chair Goode shared a video that she watched recently on YouTube.

Rite-Aid Lot – there was no real update. The group working on event programming for downtown with the Main Street Program would like to be able to use the lot during the summer if board has no objections.

The marketing/Recast Your City conversation was moved to the May meeting.

### **Nonpublic**

None

### **Member Comments**

Mr. Huot asked about what if any housing projects may be happening in Berlin. There are no active projects currently except for the proposed conversion of the ISSI office building into 19 units of housing on Jericho Road.

Mr. Huot asked about the status of the motel. It has been purchased but has a lot of ongoing work that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Robitaille asked whether anyone knew of any large warehouse space for storage available. He was advised to speak with the Presby's.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Other**

Ms. Laflamme shared updates from last month's meeting. She did confirm that the City Manager preferred not to approach Burgess about the data center question until after the PILT is finished. She also shared the developers for Dummer Yard will be at the May meeting. Ms. Laflamme also told the board that Ray's Electric is doing an estimate on the cost of moving the structures at Bickford Place. She should have that for the May meeting as well.

### **Adjourn**

**Ms. Nickerson made a motion to adjourn at 6:51PM which was seconded by Mr. Higbee. So moved, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Minutes taken by Pamela Laflamme**