

Riverview Industrial Park topic of Reading Redevelopment Authority meeting

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The Reading Redevelopment Authority board has scheduled a special meeting Wednesday at 10 a.m. to consider several prospects and proposals for its 50-acre Riverview Industrial Park site in northwest Reading.

The authority bought the property on Clinton Street near the Schuylkill Avenue Bridge at a sheriff's sale in November 2013 for \$1.56 million.

It is looking for the best options to develop it as an industrial and commercial park.

Executive Director Adam Mukerji said that the board's goal is to create manufacturing jobs for the residents of Reading, a mission supported by the city's Act 47 revitalization plan.

"We want to get this property back on the tax rolls as soon as possible," Chairman Tod W. Auman added.

Mukerji's announcement came after a meeting with Paul S. Touhey, senior vice president of Brokerage Services at CBRE Inc. in Wayne, Chester County, with which the authority listed the property last fall.

Touhey said in November that there was a lot of interest in the site, which was being marketed aggressively.

In other business, Frank B. Denbowski, special assistant to Mayor Vaughn D. Spencer, has advised the authority board that the mayor's Clean City initiative for maintaining vacant properties can save the city more than \$50,000 over time.

Board member Daniel F. Luckey said that the authority takes some blighted properties from the city but can get burdened with the cost of maintaining them because of vandalism and illegal dumping.

Denbowski said the Clean City initiative not only will help with cleaning up vacant sites but also will provide enforcement with signs and, in some cases, video cameras.

"When people know that someone's watching they're less likely to take a chance at illegal activities," he said. "Taxpayers and all citizens' benefit when government works together, and this initiative will help us partner together."