



City of Pittston

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Q&A WITH OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOE CHACKE.



WHAT PROPERTIES HAS THE RDA RECENTLY ACQUIRED?

We have recently acquired the Pittston Hospital, Pittston Lumber and a few blighted residential properties most recently. We had previously acquired the Fort Pittston School.

WILL YOU BE DEMOLISHING THE BUILDINGS?

We intend to save the Pittston Hospital and Fort Pittston School and some of the residential structures. However, the Pittston Lumber buildings will be demolished.

WHY ARE THESE BUILDINGS WORTH SAVING?

The preservation of our history as well as adaptively re-using existing buildings is one of the missions of the Redevelopment Authority.

WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR THESE BUILDINGS?

Fort Pittston School – The current plan is to have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places. If successful, we will pursue historic tax credits to complete the rehabilitation. Once completed we are hopeful to provide market rate rentals. Right now we're in the process of making sure no further deterioration occurs to the property due to the many years of vacancy and neglect. As it stands, there aren't many more tomorrows for this building. After we complete the pigeon remediation, ivy removal and structural support, roof patching and making the building watertight, the building can be saved and ready for the future project, fingers crossed in 2023 or 2024.

Pittston Hospital – It is extremely early in the process and many things can and will change, but our early ideas include constructing single family homes and townhomes on the vacant land; the original hospital/nursing school will be renovated for market rate/high end rentals; the former hospital will be renovated for high end rentals and possibly some passive commercial; the annex building will be renovated for some sort of commercial/restaurant/bar.

This is a 10+ year plan and will be completed in phases.

Pittston Lumber – This may be our most fluid project at the moment. Our focus initially will be to get rid of the blight through demolition. Our first thoughts are a mixed use project that will include residential, commercial and retail. We have other plans in the neighborhoods to save some homes to be used for moderate and low income sales as well as another future low income senior apartment project.

HOW WILL YOU PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE BUILDINGS?

These projects will be paid for in a variety of ways that may include grants, private financing, tax credits and partnering with developers. This will be a constant work in progress.

ARE TAXES GOING TOWARD THESE PROJECTS?

As of right now, the preservation of the Fort Pittston School has not used any tax dollars nor was the acquisition of the Pittston Hospital. Some federal tax dollars, via the CDBG program, were and are used for the acquisition of blighted properties.

In the future we will seek additional funding that is made available from the state and federal governments. City tax dollars are not used for construction projects. We do partner with the City to help us with grass cutting and snow removal, so in those instances city tax dollars are utilized.

WHO WILL BE DOING CONSTRUCTION ON THESE REVITALIZATION EFFORTS?

We hired Datom Products for the pigeon remediation, Apex Tree and Earth LLC for the Ivy Removal and D&M Construction for the structural support/roof patching project at the Fort Pittston School.

We do and will seek competitive bids from qualified contractors for future work. When using tax dollars and grants we are required to publicly advertise projects through a bidding process and we must award the project to the lowest qualified bidder.

HOW DO WE STAY INFORMED ON THE PROGRESS OF THESE PROJECTS?

Please follow us on Facebook & Instagram and we will be launching a new website in early 2022.