

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	11-3058
)	
MELISSA A. BIRDWELL,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

OPINION

SUE E. MYERSCOUGH, U.S. District Judge:

The Court now considers Plaintiff United States of America's Motion to Enter Judgment (d/e 8) (the "Motion"). For the reasons stated below, the Motion is ALLOWED pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55 and 28 U.S.C. § 2001.

In connection with its decision, the Court has considered all of the pleadings and evidence submitted to date. The Court finds as follows:

I. JURISDICTION

1. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1391, respectively. Defendant,

Melissa A. Birdwell, returned Waiver of Service of Summons on April 1, 2011. Defendant has acknowledged receipt of the Complaint pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4. Defendant has not voluntarily appeared in these proceedings.

II. FINDINGS

1. Defendant, Melissa A. Birdwell, executed a mortgage on September 30, 1999. See d/e 1 (Complaint at Exhibit A). On September 30, 1999, Defendant executed a note in the amount of \$48,500 secured by the mortgage. Id. at Exhibit B. Plaintiff, acting through the Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, was the mortgagee on the mortgage executed by mortgagor Defendant. The mortgage pertaining to the property described herein was recorded on September 30, 1999, commencing at Volume 587, Page 66, as Document No. 413100, in the Office of the Logan County, Illinois, Recorder.

2. Defendant has not responded to the Complaint or the allegations set forth therein. Furthermore, an Entry of Default was entered against Defendant on May 12, 2011. See d/e 6.

3. As was set forth in the Entry of Default, Plaintiff is the owner of the note and mortgage described in the Complaint.

4. Plaintiff's Motion and the attached Affidavit of Colleen Callahan, State Director, Rural Development shows that, as of May 2, 2011, Plaintiff was owed---via a Note and Mortgage hereinafter described---the sum of \$54,398.84, plus a daily per diem accrual of \$7.4284 thereafter to date of judgment. Defendant has not objected to the Motion or affidavit.

5. Defendant is prohibited from asserting any claim because of her default.

6. All of the material allegations contained in the Complaint are deemed true. By virtue of the mortgage and indebtedness thereby secured, Plaintiff has a valid and subsisting lien arising out of a real estate mortgage on the property described as follows:

Lot 57 in the Maple Grove Subdivision of Lot 17
and a part of Lot 22 of Bernard Sigg's Survey in
the City of Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois

PIN NO. 54-12-680-057-00

7. By virtue of the mortgage and the indebtedness thereby secured,

Plaintiff is entitled to:

a) Fees and Costs:

Docket Fee	\$350.00
Recording Notice of Foreclosure Lawsuit	\$38.00
Subsidy Assistance	\$12,576.24
Interest on Fees	\$32.32
Fees Assessed	\$685.73
Total	\$13,682.29

b) Unpaid Principal and Interest:

Unpaid principal balance	\$37,368.34
Accrued interest at \$7.4284 per day due and unpaid as of 5/2/11	\$3,348.21
Total amount due plaintiff as of 5/2/11, exclusive of foreclosure costs	\$54,398.84

c) In addition, Plaintiff may be compelled to advance various sums of money in payment of costs, fees, expenses, and disbursements incurred in connection with the foreclosure, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, filing fees, stenographer's fees, witness fees, costs of publication, costs of procuring and preparing documentary evidence, and costs of procuring abstracts of title, certificates, foreclosure minutes, a title insurance policy, as well as fees,

charges, and expenses provided by law incurred by or owing to the U.S. Marshal for the Central District of Illinois (the U.S. Marshal), including such fees and expenses relating to conducting of the judicial sale as required by this Judgment of foreclosure.

d) Under the terms of the mortgage, all such advances, costs and other fees, expenses, and disbursements are made a lien upon the mortgaged real estate and the plaintiff is entitled to recover all such advances, costs, expenses, and disbursements, together with interest on all advances at the rate provided in the mortgage, or, if no rate, from the date on which such advances are made.

e) In order to protect the lien of the mortgage, Plaintiff may necessarily have to pay taxes and assessments which have been or may be levied upon the mortgaged real estate.

f) In order to protect and preserve the mortgaged real estate, Plaintiff may have to make such repairs to the real estate as may reasonably be deemed necessary for the proper preservation thereof.

g) Under the terms of the mortgage, any money so paid or expended has or will become an additional indebtedness secured by the mortgage and will bear interest from the date such monies are advanced at the rate provided in the mortgage, or, if no rate is provided, at the statutory judgment rate.

8. The present owner of the above-described real estate is:

Melissa A. Birdwell

9. Logan County, Illinois has a valid lien on the above-described property for taxes for the years 2010 and 2011, and the property will be sold subject to the interest of Logan County, resulting from taxes, general or special, which are a valid lien against the above-described property.

10. Plaintiff is entitled to a shortened redemption period for the following reasons: (i) the value of the mortgaged real estate as of this date is less than ninety percent (90%) of the amount specified pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedure, 735 ILCS 5/15-1603(d); and (ii) the mortgagee waives any and all rights to a personal judgment for a deficiency against the mortgagor and against all other persons liable for the indebtedness or other obligations secured by the mortgage.

11. By reason of the defaults alleged and proved, if the indebtedness had not matured by its terms, the same became due by the exercise, by the plaintiff or other persons having such power, of a right or power to declare immediately due and payable the whole of all indebtedness secured by the mortgage.

12. Any and all notices of default or election to declare the

indebtedness due and payable or other notices required to be given have been duly and properly given.

13. Any and all periods of grace or other period of time allowed for the performance of the covenants or conditions claimed to be breached or for the curing of any breaches have expired.

14. All lien or mortgage claimants defaulted are found and declared to have no interest in the real estate foreclosed, as they have offered no evidence of any interest.

15. The real estate is free and clear of all liens and encumbrances except:

- a) General real estate taxes for the years 2010 and 2011 and thereafter and special assessments, if any;
- b) Mortgage given to Plaintiff; and
- c) Easements and restrictions of record.

16. Plaintiff's mortgage is prior and superior to all other mortgages, claims of interest, and liens upon the real estate except for real estate taxes and special assessments, if any, and except for any mortgages or liens found herein to be prior and superior to Plaintiff's mortgage or prior

liens of non-parties.

17. An accounting has been taken under the direction of the Court of the amounts due and owing to the Plaintiff as declared herein.

18. Defendant is ordered to pay to the Plaintiff before expiration of any redemption period (or, if no redemption period, within seven days after the date of this Judgment) whatever sums may appear to be due upon the taking of such account, together with fees and costs of the proceedings (to the extent provided in the mortgage or by law).

19. In default of such payment in accordance with this Judgment, the mortgaged real estate shall be sold as directed by the Court, to satisfy the amount due to the Plaintiff as set forth in this Judgment, together with the interest thereon at the statutory judgment rate from the date of the Judgment.

20. In the event the Plaintiff is a purchaser of the mortgaged real estate at such sale, the Plaintiff may offset against the purchase price of such real estate the amounts due under the Judgment for the foreclosure and order confirming the sale.

21. In the event of such sale and the failure of the person entitled thereto to redeem prior to such sale pursuant to statutory provisions, any defendant made party to the foreclosure in accordance with statutory provisions, and all non-record claimants given notice of the foreclosure in accordance with statutory provisions, and all persons claiming by, through, or under them, and each and any and all of them, shall be forever barred and foreclosed of any right, title, interest, claim, lien, or right to redeem in and to the mortgaged real estate.

22. If no redemption is made prior to such sale, a deed shall be issued to the purchaser according to law and such purchaser shall be let into possession of the mortgaged real estate in accordance with statutory provisions.

23. Exceptions to which title in the real estate shall be subject at the sale shall include general real estate taxes for the current year and for the preceding year which have not become due and payable as of the date of this Judgment and any special assessments upon the real estate and easements and restrictions of record.

24. In the event any party to this foreclosure is a successful bidder at the sale, such party may offset against the purchase price to be paid for such real estate all amounts due such party under this Judgment of foreclosure or the order confirming the sale.

25. The property is being sold at this judicial sale “AS IS”
WITHOUT ANY WARRANTIES OF HABITABILITY OR ANY
OTHER WARRANTIES, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED.

26. The real estate is ordered sold in accordance with the statutory provision by the U.S. Marshal.

27. Upon expiration of the redemption period, the real estate shall be sold by the U.S. Marshal at the front door of the Logan County Courthouse in the City of Lincoln, Illinois, at the time announced by the U.S. Marshal as provided hereinbelow, subject to easements, restrictions of record, and general or special taxes due and owing to Logan County, Illinois. Additionally, the sale shall be subject to the real estate transfer tax (35 ILCS 200/31-1, *et. seq.*), and that tax shall be paid by buyer(s).
The property shall be sold to the highest bidder who shall pay ten percent

(10%) of the bid purchase price at the time and place of sale by Cashier's/Official Bank Check or Money Order made payable to the U.S. Marshals Service, tendered to the U.S. Marshal conducting the sale. The balance of the bid purchase price shall be paid by Cashier's/Official Bank Check or Money Order made payable to U.S. Marshals Service, to be received by the U.S. Marshal at 100 N.E. Monroe, Peoria, Illinois 61601 within thirty (30) days of date of the sale. If the balance is not received within the applicable time period, the ten percent (10%) payment made at time of sale shall be forfeited to the United States, the sale shall be void, and a new sale shall be scheduled by the Court.

28. The U.S. Marshal is further ordered to give public notice of the sale as follows:

- a) The notice of sale shall include the following information, but an immaterial error in the information shall not invalidate the legal effect of the notice:
 - i) The name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate;
 - ii) The common address and other common description (other than legal description), if any, of the real estate;

- iii) A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty;
- iv) A description of the improvements on the real estate;
- v) The real estate may be inspected prior to sale upon making reasonable arrangements with the person identified in paragraph (i) above;
- vi) The time and place of the sale;
- vii) The terms of the sale;
- viii) The case title, case number, and the court in which the foreclosure was filed; and
- ix) No other information is required.

b) The notice of sale shall be published at least four consecutive calendar weeks (Sunday through Saturday), once in each week, the first such notice to be published not more than 45 days prior to the sale, the last such notice to be published not less than 7 days prior to the sale, by:

- i) An advertisement in a newspaper regularly issued and of general circulation to the general public in the county in which the real estate is located in the section of that newspaper where legal notices are commonly placed; and

- ii) No other publication shall be required.

c) The party who gives notice of public sale shall also give

notice to all other parties in the action who have not heretofore been found by the Court to be in default for failure to plead. Such notice shall be given in the manner provided in the applicable rules of court for service of papers other than process and complaint, not more than 45 days not less than seven days prior to the day of sale. After notice is given as required in this section, a copy thereof shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this Court together with a certificate of counsel or other proof that notice has been served in compliance with this section.

d) The party who gives notice of a public sale shall again give notice of any adjourned sale; provided, however, that if the adjourned sale is to occur less than 60 days after the last scheduled sale, notice of any adjourned sale need be given only once, not less than 5 days prior to the day of the adjourned sale.

e) Notice of the sale may be given prior to the expiration of the redemption period.

f) No other notice by publication or posting shall be necessary.

g) The person named in the notice of sale to be contacted for information about the real estate shall not be required to provide additional information other than that set forth in the notice of sale.

29. Division of Property: If the real estate is susceptible of division, the person conducting the sale may order it to be sold as necessary to satisfy this judgment. The person conducting the sale shall

determine which real estate shall be sold, and the person conducting the sale may determine the order in which separate tracts may be sold.

30. Certificate of Sale: Upon the sale of mortgaged real estate, the person conducting the sale shall give a certificate of sale to the purchaser and cause such certificate of sale to be recorded. The certificate shall be freely assignable by endorsement thereon.

31. Upon or after confirmation of sale, the person who conducted the sale or the Court shall execute a deed to the holder of the certificate of sale sufficient to convey title, which deed shall identify the Court and the caption of the case in which judgment was entered authorizing issuance of the deed. Signature and the recital in the deed of the title or authority of the person signing the deed as grantor of authority pursuant to this Judgment and of the giving of the notices required by statute shall be sufficient proof of the facts recited and of such authority to execute the deed, but such deed shall not be construed to contain any covenant on the part of the person executing it.

32. Delivery of the deed executed on the sale of the real estate,

even if the purchaser or holder of the certificate of sale is a party to the foreclosure, shall be sufficient to pass the title thereto. Such conveyance shall be an entire bar of (i) all claims of parties to the foreclosure and (ii) all claims of any non-record claimant who is given notice of the foreclosure as provided by statute.

33. The proceeds resulting from the sale ordered herein shall be applied in the following order:

a. The reasonable expenses of sale including but not limited to costs of publication, notice of sale, expenses, fees, and commissions incurred by or owing to the U.S. Marshal pursuant to law;

b. The reasonable expenses of securing possession before sale, holding, maintaining, and preparing the real estate for sale, including payment of taxes and other governmental charges, management fees, and to the extent provided for in the mortgage or other recorded agreement and not prohibited by law, payments made pursuant to Illinois Compiled Statutes, Ch. 735, Section 5/15-1505, and other legal expenses incurred by the mortgagee;

c. Satisfaction of claims in the order of priority adjudicated in this Judgment of foreclosure; and

d. Remittance of any surplus to the mortgagor or as otherwise directed by the Court.

34. Only the owner of redemption may redeem from this foreclosure, and such owner of redemption may redeem only during the redemption period specified herein.

35. In this foreclosure of a mortgage of residential real estate, the court finds that (i) the value of the mortgaged real estate as of this date is less than ninety percent (90%) of the amount specified pursuant to the 735 ILCS 5/15-1603(d); and (ii) the mortgagee waives any and all rights to a personal judgment for a deficiency against the mortgagor, and against all other persons liable for the indebtedness or other obligations secured by the mortgage.

36. This is a foreclosure of a mortgage of residential real estate.

37. The amount required to redeem shall consist of the Total Balance Due as declared above plus interest thereon at the statutory rate

hereafter and all additional costs and other expenses allowed by the Court.

38. If the purchaser at the judicial sale of residential real estate is a mortgagee who is a party to this proceeding or its nominee, and if the sale price is less than the amount required to redeem specified in 735 ILCS 5/15-1603(d), an owner of redemption has a special right to redeem for a period ending 30 days after the date the sale is confirmed, by paying the mortgagee the sale price plus all additional costs and expenses incurred by the mortgagee set forth in the report of sale and confirmed by this Court.

39. The redemption period shall end in this case 60 days from the entry of Judgment.

40. Possession of Mortgaged Real Estate:

A. Unless the mortgagor's right to possess this foreclosed residential real estate is or has been terminated, the mortgagor (homeowner) has the right to possess the foreclosed premises in accordance with Section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure

Law.

B. Unless sooner ordered to vacate the premises, the mortgagor and all persons claiming a possessory right to the mortgaged premises through the mortgagor shall peaceably remove themselves and all of their possessions from the mortgaged premises in compliance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1701 on the 31st day after the judicial sale of this mortgaged property has been approved.

C. If any persons referenced in the above subparagraph remain on the premises on or after the 31st day of the approval of the judicial sale of this mortgaged real estate, the U.S. Marshal is hereby directed as soon as practicable thereafter to use any and all necessary reasonable force to enter the above described mortgaged premises, including any outbuildings and vehicles located thereon and to remove all occupants located thereon, who are present on the premises and refuse to vacate immediately and voluntarily at the U.S. Marshal's direction. In addition, any and all personal property left on the mortgaged premises by the Defendant mortgagor, and/or any and all other persons having left

the property, is hereby declared forfeited to the United States. If the U.S. Marshal determines that the above-described personal property is without value or of *di minimis* value that would neither exceed nor equal the costs of notice, storage, and sale, the U.S. Marshal may leave the personal property, at his discretion, on the premises for the purchaser of this real estate to claim, or dispose of, at will.

Upon taking possession and custody of the premises, and removing all occupants who are unauthorized to remain on the premises, the U.S. Marshal is directed to remit possession and custody of the premises to the purchaser of the property at the sale judicially approved by this Court.

45. Report of Sale: The person conducting the sale shall file a report of sale with the Clerk of this Court specifying the amount of proceeds of sale realized and the disposition thereof.

46. Homestead Waiver: Defendant waived her right to homestead or other exemptions in the real estate in the body of the mortgage, which was duly signed and acknowledged. Defendant is, therefore, barred from

claiming any right to homestead or other exemptions in the real estate.

47. There is no just reason for delaying the enforcement of this Judgment, or an appeal therefrom.

III. CONCLUSION

THEREFORE, Plaintiff United States of America's Motion to Enter Judgment (d/e 8) is GRANTED.

ENTER: June 22, 2011

FOR THE COURT:

s/ Sue E. Myerscough
SUE E. MYERSCOUGH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE