

Minutes of the Special Meeting

Swampscott Housing Authority

October 4, 2021

- I. Meeting called to order 11:32AM
- II. Roll Call: Richard Callahan
Cynthia Tennant
Tara Cassidy-Driscoll
Catherine Esteverena

Also, present: Director Irma Chez, Joseph Spindler (Swampscott Senior Tenant's Association) and Karol Feliz, Administrative Assistant.

Commissioner Esteverena presented a response letter on behalf of the board. Since some of the members of the board saw the letter for the first time at the Monday meeting. The Board decided to take time and make corrections as need it or add as need it. Such letter will be presented on next Board meeting.

Commissioner Esteverena asked Director Chez if she had received response from the email she sent out to Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald, the Town Select Board, Marcie Galazka, Allie Fiske, Affordable Housing Trust and Swampscott for all ages the MassNahro initiative BE A LOCAL HERO and SAVE PUBLIC HOUSING. Director Chez responded that the email was sent on September 21, 2021 and no response from anyone. Director Chez stated that she also contacted Senator Crighton's office and a site visit is been planned for the end of October.

Commissioner Tennant informed the Board that she had a conversation with Jack Cooper Director of the Massachusetts Tenant Union Association. Mr. Cooper stated that our sites are in compliance with other two-story state housing buildings. He did suggested, speaking to the Town Select Board and have them contribute some of the American Rescue Plan Funds and install Outdoor Lifts.

Chair Callahan, state lack of understanding form the town of what is the Swampscott Housing Mission, the housing derived income is from the state or tenants rents, we have no independent source of income. He suggested Director Chez to contact David Hedison, Chelmsford Housing and ask him more information of what we can do and not do pertaining to decision of our properties such as income and funding.

Commissioner Cassidy-Driscoll stated that having a liaison is important to keep the line of communication with the Town. Commissioner Esteverena stated that what is the job of a liaison as in the past information was not brought back to our Board, it only when one way.

The Board decided to discuss the Liaison Policy such as guidance and find out what other housing authorities are doing and town. Commissioner Tennant stated that Nahant Housing does not have a liaison in the Housing or the town.

Director Chez stated that she reached out to Counsel, MJ Boyland DHCD Regional counsel, stated that she was not awarded of any other Housing Authority having a Liaison.

Commissioner Tennant stated that she agrees in keeping the lines of communication even with Naomi Dreeben who really has some great ideas. Commissioner Cassidy-Driscoll said she was sad to see Naomi go," She said that she saw Dreeben's passion and considered her knowledgeable as she worked with other Boards in Town.

Commissioner Esteeverena said she did not appreciate people saying that we don't care about people with disabilities.

Commissioner Tennant reminded the Board of their commitment to the residents of the Housing Authority.

Director Chez expressed her eagerness to continue to bring more funding to assist our residents. She listed some of the improvements done while her 1 year and 6 months. Commissioner Tennant stated that we are working as hard as we can that so far in grants and capital funds are about 1.2 million.

Commissioner Tennant reminded the Board members of the ARPA funds if we can obtain \$10.500 to modernize our units, we need to work and get those funds that would total 1.3 million. Commissioner Cassidy-Driscoll agreed that we need to work and show that we are getting funds to improve SHA properties.

Commissioner Cassidy-Driscoll asked how much has been received for grants. Commissioner Tennant said she has been keeping a list and gave some of the amounts but will work to get a complete list along, with Commissioners Esteeverena's help.

Director Chez remind the Board of the initiative Be a Local Hero and Save Public Housing that we must continue to spread the word. Commissioner Cassidy-Driscoll and Commissioner Esterena will work together in spreading the word, through Facebook, emails, communicating with the Town and other means in order to get the funding that our sites need.

Next Board Meeting October 12, 2021

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

MOTION Chair Callahan moved to adjourn October 4, 2021 Board Special meeting 2nd, Catherine Esteeverena. Passed unanimously.