

These minutes are not verbatim, but a condensed version of what transpired at the Lakewood Housing Authority (LHA) Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at 6:01 pm, in the Community Room at the Rev. Albert Clayton Administration Building, 317 Sampson Avenue, Lakewood, NJ.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Ms. Medina called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Ana María García announced that consistent with the Open Public Meetings Law: P.L.1975 c231, which requires that all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public at all times, a notice of this meeting was provided to the clerk of the Township of Lakewood, the Ocean County Library, the Asbury Park Press, and the Star-Ledger on December 27, 2016, and was posted on the Authority's official designated public bulletin board at the LHA Administration Building, as well as the LHA website.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, attending Commissioners were:

Miriam Medina – *Chairperson*
Gregory Stafford Smith – *2nd Vice Chairperson*
Nechama Heinemann – *Commissioner*
Angela Caldwell – *Commissioner*

Also attending:

Mary Jo Grauso – *Executive Director*
Scott Parsons – *Assistant Executive Director*

Absent were:

Shabsi Ganzweig – *Vice Chairperson*
Eric Sherman – *Commissioner*
Joseph Weingarten – *Commissioner*
Terrence Corriston – *Attorney (available via telephone)*
Ray Coles – *Township Liaison*

READING OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 24, 2017 were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Ms. Heinemann, seconded by Ms. Caldwell. On roll call approving, Mr. Stafford Smith, Ms. Heinemann, Ms. Caldwell, and Ms. Medina. Minutes were approved.

BILLS AND APPROVAL OF SAME

Bills were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Mr. Stafford Smith, seconded by Ms. Caldwell. On roll call approving, Mr. Stafford Smith, Ms. Heinemann, Ms. Caldwell, and Ms. Medina. Bills were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES – None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Grauso reported a meeting with representatives of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in connection with the Family Unification Program for Youths (FUPY). Ten (10) FUP vouchers have been set aside for this pilot program, which is the first of its kind in New Jersey. The Division will send two referrals at a time in March and will be assisting the youths to find housing.

It appears that funding to the Section 8 Program may be cut by 5%. This has not occurred in many years. The Section 8 Program has been fully funded and the effect could result in the loss of 40 vouchers for this authority. Those vouchers would never return as the funding is dependent on the previous year's budget. Mr. Parsons added that the LHA would be staying the course for now. He is hopeful that the cuts will be less than projected.

Finally, Ms. Grauso mentioned that RAD Project Based Voucher (PBV) Occupancy Training is being offered at the N.J.N.A.H.R.O. April conference. Four employees, including the E.D. and A.E.D., have been enrolled in this training. The training incorporates the requirements of the Section 8 PBV program. It is specifically geared towards the occupancy staff and administrative management.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY – None.

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP LIAISON – None.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

MEETING OPENED TO HOUSING AUTHORITY CLIENTS

Mr. Michael Weiss, 5 Autumn Road, addressed the Board with what he said was a private issue. He had been told to attend a Board meeting, but did not clarify by whom. He stated that he received a certain amount of money from his employer to be used for medical expenses. Since it is provided for medical purposes and he had documentation stating the money is not income, he believes it should not be considered when calculating his rent portion. Ms. Medina asked Ms. Grauso if she knew about Mr. Weiss' issue. Ms. Grauso replied, that she knew all about it, however, a Board Meeting is not the proper place to discuss private matters. Ms. Grauso stated that Mr. Weiss had requested a Fair Hearing with a Hearing Officer, and the Officer had determined that the monies were, in fact, income. Mr. Weiss then contacted HUD Newark and again was told the money is income. Mr. Weiss stated that he wanted to know why the money was considered income. Mr. Parsons said that the matter would be reviewed and he would receive an explanation in the mail.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC – None.


COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Heinemann requested further information regarding Mr. Weiss' concern. Ms. Grauso and the Caseworker, Lorraine Heilmann, provided her with a more detailed synopsis of his issue.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Stafford Smith, seconded by Ms. Caldwell, all present voted to adjourn at approximately 6:28 pm.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.



Mary Jo Grauso, Secretary
Executive Director