



Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting April 28, 2015

MEETING CONVENED

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for MaineHousing convened on April 28, 2015 at the offices of MaineHousing, 353 Water Street, Augusta, Maine.

Chairman Peter Anastos called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners Lincoln Merrill, Sheryl Gregory, John Marsh, Donna Talarico, Kevin P. Joseph, Terry Hayes, and Director John Gallagher in attendance. Commissioner Adam Bradstreet was absent. There was a quorum present.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Guests and staff present for all or part of the meeting include: Peter Merrill, Deputy Director; Margaret Bean, Deputy Director; Linda Uhl, Chief Counsel; Dan Brennan, Director of Development; Denise Lord, Director of Communications and Planning; Michael Baran, Director of Energy and Housing Services; Kathy Kinch, Manager of Program Operations; Jane Whitley, HR Manager; Cindy Namer, Director of Homeless Initiatives; Deb Turcotte, Public Information Manager; and Jody Rollins, Office Administrator and note taker.

ADOPT AGENDA

Commissioner Gregory made a motion seconded by Commissioner Talarico to adopt the agenda. The vote carried 5 – 0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFLICTS

Commissioner Marsh reported that Bath Savings Bank is a lead lender to Park Danforth.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2015 MEETING

Commissioner Joseph made a motion seconded by Commissioner Gregory to accept the minutes as written. The vote carried 5 – 0.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD UPDATES

- Chair Anastos met with the Governor regarding homelessness and the possibility of starting a commission to explore funding issues facing the homeless shelters.
- Chair Anastos referenced a newspaper article in the *Portland Press Herald* regarding an initiative to purchase homes for the chronically homeless in Utah.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

- John and Peter have been frequenting the State House for a number of meetings and events which include: a meeting with Senators Alford and Volk regarding the \$3.5 million Homeless initiative, Realtor Rally, and a meeting with Speaker Eaves and John Butera regarding the \$65 million Bond issue for senior housing statewide.
- Hosted a meeting with the Finance Authority of Maine and the Maine Development Association to discuss how they can partner to create more affordable housing in economically developed areas. John will attend the MDF Downtown Conference May 1st.
- Attended the Statewide Homeless Council meeting.
- Met with Don Gean and Bob Dawber to discuss homeless funding positions.

- Met with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston in Westbrook to discuss purchasing MH bonds and standby letters.
- Met with Associated General Contractors regarding the \$65 million Bond Issue.
- Will meet with the Efficiency Maine Trust Board on May 6.
- Will attend the Public Housing Authority Directors meeting on May 7 and discuss a loan program initiative for public housing authorities.
- Planning an All Staff Training Day for May 19th at the Governor Hill Mansion. The keynote speaker will be Don Gean.

John suggested adjusting the agenda to reflect that the Introduction and Commencement of rulemaking on the Homeless Rule Change does not require a vote.

INTRODUCE THE LIHEAP WEATHERIZATION / CHIP WAIVER

Director of Energy & Housing Services Mike Baran reviewed the waiver request to ensure MH can maximize its use of the FFY 2015 funds. Grantees are allowed to use up to 15% of the LIHEAP grant for weatherization, and may apply for a waiver to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to use up to 25%. A public hearing will be held on May 28th.

ADOPT 2015 LIHEAP REPLACEMENT RULE

Director of Energy & Housing Services Michael Baran reviewed the proposed Home Energy Assistance Program Rule which would replace the existing Rule for purposes of extending the application period from April 30 to July 17 for tenants in subsidized housing with heat included, tenants in rental units with heat included, and for households that may apply for the PUC Arrearage Management Program. The rule change will affect people who apply for food stamps after April 30th.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion seconded by Commissioner Gregory to repeal the existing Home Energy Assistance Program Rule and replace it with the proposed Home Energy Assistance Program Rule. The vote carried 6 – 0.

INTRODUCE & COMMENCE RULEMAKING ON THE HOMELESS RULE CHANGE

Director of Homeless Initiatives Cindy Namer reviewed the rationale for replacing the Homeless Rule with a new Homeless Solutions Rule. Cindy is distributing concept documents to stakeholders for feedback and input. She reviewed the Rulemaking timeline. Several Follow-up items and upcoming meetings were discussed.

OTHER

Commissioner Hayes made a request to try not to use acronyms in documents and conversations. We will provide a list of acronyms to Commissioners.

There was a request for Treasurer Cary to make a SWAP presentation at a future Board meeting.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Gregory made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Talarico, Secretary