



Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting May 23, 2017

MEETING CONVENED

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners for MaineHousing convened on May 23, 2017 at the Augusta Civic Center, Civic Center Drive, Augusta, Maine.

Chairman Peter Anastos called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with Commissioners Sheryl Gregory, Kevin P. Joseph, Donna Talarico, State Treasurer Terry Hayes, Thomas Davis, Laurence Gross, Jim Whitten and Director John Gallagher in attendance. Commissioner Lincoln Merrill 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, Linda Uhl, Chief Counsel, Daniel Brennan, Senior Director of Programs, Cindy Namer, Director of Homeless Initiatives, Deborah Turcotte, Public Information Manager, and Gerrylynn Ricker, Paralegal and note taker.

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners was requested by Dan Brennan, Senior Director of Programs and Cindy Namer, Director of Homeless Initiatives to get authority to commence rulemaking on MaineHousing's Homeless Solutions Rule. Dan explained to the Commissioners that the first quarterly payment of 2017 to Maine's homeless shelters resulted in a significant shift of funds away from those shelters that primarily serve the toughest clients – those who stay the longest and/or who are actively using. An adjustment to the calculation of the Stabilization Share caused this shift. In order to solve this problem, we need to commence rulemaking to repeal and replace the current Homeless Solutions Rule to edit the definition of "Clients Assessed and Stabilized" in the rule to remove the term "housed". This will result in the calculation being consistent with last year's methodology. Clients "housed" are accounted for in the semi-annual Performance Share Payment, where different benchmarks are in place for different types of shelters.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion seconded by Commissioner Gregory to authorize MaineHousing to commence the rulemaking process to repeal and replace Chapter 19 of MaineHousing's rules, the Homeless Solutions Rule, as described in the memorandum from Daniel Brennan, Senior Director of Programs to the Commissioners dated May 23, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Counsel Linda Uhl discussed with the Commissioners that the public hearing for the repeal and replacement of the rule will be held at the next regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting on June 20, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The Commissioners then discussed holding a special meeting on June 30th to adopt the new Homeless Solutions Rule after the comment period expires at 10:00 a.m. that day. There was discussion regarding remote participation. Linda explained that participation can be done remotely but the reason for the particular Commissioner's absence must be noted in the minutes. The Commissioners agreed to meet on June 30, 2017, with the time to be agreed upon at the June 20, 2017 meeting.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hayes made a motion seconded by Commissioner Joseph to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Talarico, Secretary