

Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting September 24, 2013

MEETING CONVENED

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for MaineHousing convened on September 24, 2013, at the Inn at City Hall, One Cony Street, Augusta, Maine.

Chair Peter Anastos called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with Commissioners Adam Bradstreet, John Turner, Don Capoldo, Sheryl Gregory, Donna Talarico, Lincoln Merrill, Neria Douglass (9:10), and Director John Gallagher in attendance. There was a quorum present.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Guests and Staff present included: Barbara Berry, Maine Association of Realtors; Chris Cousins, Bangor Daily News; Margaret Bean, Deputy Director; Peter Merrill, Deputy Director; Linda Uhl, Chief Counsel; Dan Brennan, Director of Development; Denise Lord, Director of Housing Choice Vouchers; Linda Grotton, Manager of Internal Audit and Compliance; Deb Turcotte, Public Information Manager, and Jody Rollins, Office Administrator and note taker.

ADOPT AGENDA

Commissioner Gregory made a motion seconded by Commissioner Capoldo to accept the agenda. The vote carried 6 – 0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFLICTS

- Chair Anastos apologized to the Bangor Daily News for the error in communicating the meeting location.
- Chair Anastos received communication from Edgecomb Selectman Stewart Smith regarding ECOS.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Commissioner Gregory made a motion seconded by Commissioner Turner to accept the minutes as written. The vote carried 7 – 0.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director John Gallagher provided the following updates:

- The 9% Tax Credit applications are due on September 26th; we anticipate there will be 17 applications submitted.
- Staff is busy setting up action steps and implementation plans for the strategic plan which will set the course for the agency.
- A conference call is set today with the Attorney General regarding foreclosures.
- John met with SMCC on an initiative to develop a Real Estate/Property Management certificate program.
- John attended two meetings recently with CAA staff – a CAP Director meeting where he spoke about the direction of the agency and collaboration, and another with the CAA housing staff about implementation of their programs.

- John reported on the OPEGA hearing and comments made by the Community Action Association about how long it takes to enter information into the ECOS system.
- The Manufactured Housing Association Annual meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston on October 24th. John will be speaking. Commissioners are invited to attend.
- John worked with Efficiency Maine Trust to secure \$500,000 of RGGI funds to use for the CHIP program.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER ANNUAL PLAN

Denise Lord presented an overview of the Annual Plan to the Board of Commissioners. The Plan proposes a couple of improvements to our current delivery model linking project based vouchers with people who are homeless and forming a Resident Advisory Board made up of Section 8 voucher holders. There will be a public hearing at the October 15 Board meeting. Any substantive comments received will be shared at the Board meeting. The Plan will be submitted on October 18th.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA (MORATORIUM EXTENSION REQUEST)

Chief Counsel Uhl provided up-to-date information to the Board around the use of medical marijuana and the status of MaineHousing's information requests. The Commissioners discussed areas of concern.

Commissioner Capoldo made a motion seconded by Commissioner Gregory to extend the moratorium on prohibition of medical marijuana in the Housing Choice Voucher Program up to one year unless the Federal Government provides guidelines or a decision. Commissioners Gregory, Capoldo, Bradstreet, Douglass and Talarico voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Turner and Merrill were opposed. The motion carried 5 – 2.

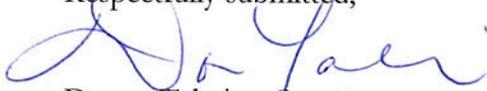
OTHER

- Director Gallagher extended his sincere appreciation to Cindy Taylor and the staff at the Inn at City Hall for their hospitality which included breakfast, a fact sheet, and a guided tour of the building.
- *A motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Douglass to approve the per diem payment to Chair Anastos for attending a Compensation meeting with Commissioner Merrill and Director Gallagher on August 14, 2013. The motion carried 7 - 0*

ADJOURN

Commissioner Turner made a motion seconded by Commissioner Bradstreet to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Talarico, Secretary