

Millbury Housing Authority

Minutes

February 22, 2018

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Meeting convened at 1:00pm

Present: Frances Gauthier, Veronica Wood, Lucy Chabot

Absent: Gilbert Picard, Sherry Forleo

Others present: Carol Desantis, Betty Brusco, Stan Aurell, Janice Masters, Arlene Lamontagne, Rosalie Kubiak, Teri Smith, Betty Chase, Dot Vallee, Sandra Denaris

Motion by Veronica Wood, seconded by Lucy Chabot to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2108. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Veronica Wood, seconded by Lucy Chabot to accept the Consolidated Report Vouchers in the amount of \$138,667.81. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Veronica Wood, seconded by Lucy Chabot to accept the MRVP Vouchers in the amount of \$1,049.00. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Veronica Wood, seconded by Lucy Chabot to approve the write off of \$400.00 in uncollected rent. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence from the town manager was read regarding the replacement of the bus stop. The tenants are very unhappy that the bus stop was reinstalled in the same place in front of the building. They complained about loitering, cigarette butts left all over the sidewalk, and people urinating there. They also complained about the dangers of trying to walk around the bus stop using a walker. The flat surface is not wide enough for a walker and the tenants have to walk on the bricks that are uneven and are a tripping hazard. They voiced the opinion that someone will have to get hurt before the town will do anything.

It was also mentioned that the town manager spoke with a lot of people, but did not speak with any of the tenants at 95 Elm Street, the housing authority director, or any housing authority staff.

Carol advised them that Senator Moore strongly advocated for a meeting between all parties to come to a resolution. The director of the WRTA and Carol were both willing and available to attend a meeting, but apparently other invitees were not, as

the meeting never took place. Carol suggested that they attend a Board of Selectmen's meeting to voice their opinion as there was nothing she could do.

Carol distributed the information from the Department of Revenue regarding Wage Match: Safeguarding of Department of Revenue Information, stating they will discuss it at the next meeting after the members have had a chance to read it.

Rosalie Kubiak spoke on the memo regarding the pull cords. She was representing the tenants from Colonial Drive who were against removing the pull cords. She stated that she feels safe and secure knowing that pulling the cord will alert her neighbors that she's fallen and can't get up. She relayed a story about a neighbor who fell in his bathtub and pulled the cord. She was able to get into his apartment and call 911 for assistance.

Carol read parts of two Public Housing Notices sent in January and April of last year regarding removing the cords. She also discussed the dangers of relying on a neighbor who might not be home, or just wasn't neighborly. She assured them that a master key was in every Knox box and all emergency personnel would be able to enter their apartment in the case of an emergency. She suggested a compromise that the Board and the tenants were both in agreement with; tenants who wish to keep their cords will sign a waiver stating that they know the limitations of the cords and understand the risks of depending on them in an emergency.

Motion by Veronica Wood, seconded by Lucy Chabot to amend the previous motion regarding removing all pull cords.

The amendment reads as follows: allowing tenants who wish to keep their pull cords to sign a waiver stating that they know the limitations of the pull cord and understand the risks of depending on them in an emergency. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested by some of the tenants in attendance that Carol include fire procedure in the newsletter. Apparently some of the tenants don't know what to do if the fire alarm sounds. Carol will also speak with the fire chief to determine when the next tenant/fire training meeting will be held.

2:10 Roll call vote to adjourn to executive session to discuss Carol's work performance and salary

Frances Gauthier, aye

Veronica Wood, aye

Lucy Chabot, aye

All in favor. Motion carried unanimously

Board adjourned to executive session

2:40 Roll Call vote to adjourn from executive session and re-convene to regular meeting

Veronica Wood, aye

Lucy Chabot, aye

Frances Gauthier, aye


Regular meeting adjourned at 2:45pm

Next meeting scheduled on March 21st, at 1:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,




Frances Gauthier



Veronica Wood




Gilbert Picard



Carol A. Smith



Sherry Forleo



Lucy Chabot