

Board of Assessors Executive Session 2
Monday July 20, 2015

Attendance: J. Brodie, Chair S. Rufo, Z. Ventress, C. Kane, D. Hill, Director E. Brideau and Administrative Assessor J. Marchant

Purpose: The session was called at 7:45pm by a unanimous roll call vote of the board as permitted by MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss the Open Meeting Law Complaint by George H. Harris dated June 23, 2015.

Discussion:

Z. Ventress: The complaint seems to stem not from incorrect procedures, but from some note taking errors. The BOA has been very conscientious and typically does follow the correct procedures for executive session. The minutes he was given to review were draft minutes- they had not yet been approved by the board. Regarding the topics within 48 hours, he doesn't believe Mr. Harris understood (based on the notes) the specifics of the people involved and that they were in direct communication on that topic within the 48 hours and how the information that was discovered by the staff had a direct impact on the BOA and its timetable.

S. Rufo commented on the note taking. It is extremely difficult for the Chair or the Director to take the minutes while also updating the board, giving presentations and running the meeting. She suggested another board member should do it in the future if Jessica is not available to take the minutes.

D. Hill thought there was a disconnect between the minutes and the discussion and that this issue is addressable.

S. Rufo explained the process that has been started. She initiated a draft response to the complaint and sent it to M. Lanza to confirm it was written with the correct procedures. Just prior to tonight's meeting M. Lanza sent back a revised version of the draft. J. Brodie asked if the board could review it. S. Rufo read portions of the draft document to the board. S. Rufo suggested one option is for the board to assign the chair to submit the response on behalf of the board. The response is due by July 31st. The board will have to meet again before then if they want to discuss the matter further.

J. Brodie asked and S. Rufo confirmed that in the future, it's up to the chair if the name goes into the executive session agenda or not. J. Brodie asked how we handle discussing a specific property in executive session. Director Brideau stated it will be case specific as to whether or not it's detrimental to either party to list the name on the agenda. Z. Ventress asked if the name was listed on previous agendas when that property was to be discussed. S. Rufo and Director Brideau would have to go back and check, but they believe it was not listed in the past.

J. Brodie moved that the chair be authorized to submit and sign the response on behalf of the board.

D. Hill seconded.

Roll call vote C. Kane-yes, Z. Ventress-yes, J. Brodie-yes, D. Hill-yes, S. Rufo-yes

J. Brodie moved and Z. Ventress seconded to come out of executive session.

Roll call vote C. Kane-yes, Z. Ventress-yes, J. Brodie-yes, D. Hill-yes, S. Rufo-yes