

APPROVED
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION

May 21, 2020 3:39 p.m.

Telephone remote participation per Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending
Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mercer convened the Executive Session by telephone conferencing at 3:39 p.m.. Where only board members and recording secretary Meagher were to report in attendance, an unknown listener named "Dave" was trying to attend the phone meeting. Chairman Mercer asked the stray listener to hang up, then instructed all board members and Ms. Meagher to telephone the secure number again. At 3:44 p.m. by telephone roll call, board of commissioners: Chairman Mercer, Eileen Mooney, Cara Becker, and Marie Ryan And recording secretary Madonna Meagher were "locked in" with their attendance and no other listeners were at the meeting. All board members and Ms. Meagher voiced that they were alone while in executive session.

II EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Mercer recapped the process that the peer, board and tenant evaluations had been summarized by Cara Becker and a summary of the data had been distributed to all board members via email.

Mooney raised concerns about discussing the evaluations in the executive session, suggesting Executive Director's evaluations should be discussed in an open meeting. Mooney stated she had sent a statement from an attorney at the Attorney General's division of open government to all board members. Chairman Mercer stated he had checked with DHCD attorney John Liebel to ensure the executive session was being properly held. Chairman Mercer reminded the board that one of the oversight duties of the board was to evaluate the Executive Director on an annual basis.

Mooney disagreed with holding an executive session and asked Ms. Meagher to note in the minutes she was leaving the meeting. She then disconnected from the meeting at 3:49 p.m..

With Marie Ryan, Cara Becker and Chairman Mercer present making a quorum of the board of commissioners, Board member Becker stated that in reviewing the evaluation responses [that she

alone had collected from the office] she was confident in renewing Executive Director Danzy's contract. Board member Ryan agreed. Becker stated, in general, peer reviews were "glowing" and tenant evaluations and comments were "glowing" Becker noted there were only a few negative comments, one was specific to a situation and the other didn't care for the Executive Director for unspecified reasons.

Becker suggested that in future meetings the board could provide some goals for the Executive Director to work on in the coming year. Becker stated that the Executive Director Danzy was on the "right track" with leading the housing authority. Ryan and Mercer agreed with that general assessment.

With no other board comments,

Chairman Mercer made a motion to end the Executive Session at 3:53 p.m to be followed by the open meeting at 4:00 p.m. Seconded by Becker. . Roll Call Vote: Mercer aye, Ryan aye, Becker aye Motion approved 3-0 Unanimous.

Documents Reviewed: Evaluation summaries, Mooney's Division of Open Government letter

Pursuant to MA General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 20 (e) (f), meetings of the Great Barrington Housing Authority are regularly recorded. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the Chair. Listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.