

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES

SELECTBOARD MEETING TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Executive Session, under MGL c.30A, §21(a)(3) to request minutes of the executive session held by the Selectboard on November 18, 2020 and complaints against Jim Mercer, chairman of the Great Barrington Housing Authority

Beginning at approximately 6:00 PM

Attending were members Stephen Bannon, Ed Abrahams, Bill Cooke, Kate Burke, and Leigh Davis.

Also present: Town Manager Mark Pruhenski, Town Counsel Nick Dominello, GBHA Board Chair Jim Mercer, and Counsel Priscilla Chesky.

Mercer gave an overview of the challenges on the Great Barrington Housing Authority with turnover of management. Currently there's a new Executive Director bringing stability within the community. The most recent concern is the mold issue. That has been addressed by Housing Authority Council and the tenants has been relocated to another units. Experts has been hired for mediation. Last, focusing on the budget, the financial issue there's a lot of questions on.

There are 5 allegations:

1. Violation of Great Barrington Housing Authority Bylaws.
2. Executive sessions were scheduled for matters that are not a legitimate basis for executive sessions.
3. The violation of Public Records Law
4. The violation of the Department of Housing committee development guidelines.
5. Failed to inform board members of matters affecting the board.

Recommendations:

- Nick Dominello [REDACTED]
- Warrants will be included in the board meeting packet.
- Any evaluation of personnel will be made in open meetings with aggregate scores that goes to the chair.

- All documents should be public for open view.
- Instead of a monthly meeting, they should have 2 meetings a month if necessary.
- To discuss a topic is necessary to be previously posted in the agenda.
- To bring the minutes corrected before they are approved.

1st Motion to approve a letter of counseling or letter of expectations in 90 days. Mercer will report to their board.

2nd Motion providing a workshop for team building for members of the board, staff, one liaison of the community.

Both motions were approved unanimously.

Discussion of this matter concluded at 7:45 PM

Minutes prepared by: _____
Carmen Morales