

GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Board Meeting

May 15, 2014

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Salem, Ariane Blanchard, Richard Needelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Condon, Veronica Cunningham

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Heaphy, Malcolm Fick, Jeffrey Bessom

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Salem at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion made by Deborah seconded by Richard to accept the April, 2014 minutes. All members voted in favor.

Solarize Great Barrington/Egremont Program:

Malcolm Frick said the program is state run and towns within Massachusetts are selected. He gave an overview of the program. He mentioned National Grid's increased rates in electricity and how a nonprofit business like a Housing Authority could receive a long term reduced electricity rate by going solar. Other towns in the Berkshires are already participating. He mentioned that Solar is a great investment with a payback period of less than five years. Jeffrey Bessom, program development director for RGS Energy mentioned the different solar options: putting up solar panels or buying from another source. He will need copies of electric bills to do a site assessment to determine feasibility of our properties.

Check Register:

After Barbara answered questions about specific checks to vendors, Ariane made a motion to accept the check register. Deborah seconded it. All members voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report:

Barbara reported on the number of vacancies, applications on file and accounts receivable.

Dewey Court:

The vacant unit is almost complete. Carpeting needs to be installed. A tenant is currently being screened and the goal for move in date is July 1, 2014. The drainage project went out to bid. Bids are due back on the 21st.

Salary Certification:

The administrative salaries that were approved this fiscal year and the certification needs to be signed by all board members. The Executive Director contract needs to be approved with a board vote as well. Motion made by Ariane, seconded by Deborah to approve the Executive Director Contract. All members voted in favor.

Energy Consumption Reports:

Barbara ran reports that reflected this past winter/heating season. The cost increase was with propane, not electricity. The increase in the cost of propane more than doubled.

Election of Officers:

Since all board members aren't present, Deborah made a motion to postpone election of officers until the June meeting. Ariane seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Deborah said that she is interested in serving as chairman again. Ariane is interested in continuing to be the vice-chairman.

Motion made by Deborah, seconded by ^{Ariane}~~Ariane~~ to adjourn at 3:35. All members voted in favor.

Next meeting is June 19, 2014.