



Louisiana Housing
Corporation

Board of Directors

Agenda Item #3

**Minutes of the
April 26, 2021**

**Board of Directors
SPECIAL Meeting**

May 12, 2021



Louisiana Housing Corporation

A verbatim transcript as well as an audio recording of these proceedings is available upon request by contacting the LHC

LHC Board of Directors

***SPECIAL* Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, April 26, 2021

**2415 Quail Drive
V. Jean Butler Board Room
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
10:00 A.M.**

Board Members Present

Interim-Board Chairwoman Jennifer Vidrine
Louisiana State Treasurer John M. Schroder
Johnny Berthelot
Stacy S. Head
Steven P. Jackson
Tonya P. Mabry
Anthony "AP" Marullo, III
Willie Rack
Gillis R. Windham

Board Members Absent

Derrick Edwards
Ericka McIntyre

Staff Present

Barry E. Brooks
Bradley Sweazy
Jessica Guinn Johnson
Rendell Brown
Bridget Javius

Others Present

See Guest Sign-In Sheet

CALL TO ORDER

Interim-Board Chairwoman Vidrine called the meeting to order at 10:03. Board Secretary Barry E. Brooks called the roll; there was a quorum.

Next was a Silent Prayer, followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA

On a motion by Board Member Stacy S. Head and seconded by Board Member Willie Rack, the Agenda was Amended to proceed next with the Executive Session (Agenda Item #4); and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Member Gillis R. Windham moved that pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(4), the Board enter into Executive Session:

The purpose for the executive session is Pursuant to La R.S. 42:17(A)(4), the Board of Directors of the LHC reserves the right to enter into Executive Session relative to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

The motion to enter into Executive Session was seconded by Board Member Stacy S. Head

A Roll Call was done to Enter Executive Session. Votes were as follows:

YES – 9: (Ms. Vidrine, Mr. Schroder, Mr. Berthelot, Ms. Head, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Mabry, Mr. Marullo, Mr. Rack, and Mr. Windham).

NO - 0: None.

ABSENT - 2: Mr. Edwards and Ms. McIntyre.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:06 a.m.

On a motion by Board Member Gillis R. Windham and seconded by Board Member Willie Rack the Board exited Executive Session at 11:25 a.m.

A Roll Call was done to Exit Executive Session. Votes were as follows:

YES – 9: (Ms. Vidrine, Mr. Schroder, Mr. Berthelot, Ms. Head, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Mabry, Mr. Marullo, Mr. Rack, and Mr. Windham).

NO - 0: None.

ABSENT - 2: Mr. Edwards and Ms. McIntyre.

The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #2

Next item discussed was the resolution confirming LHC COO Bradley R. Sweazy as Appointing Authority of LHC.

On a motion by Board Member Steven P. Jackson and seconded by Board Member Gillis Windham, the Board approved the resolution ratifying and confirming a Delegation of the Appointing Authority of the Louisiana Housing Corporation to manage the daily affairs of the Corporation to Chief Operating Officer Bradley R. Sweazy; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3

Next item discussed was regarding the transfer of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (“ERAP”) to the Division of Administration (“DOA”).

The matter was introduced by IBC Vidrine.

Additional information (**PowerPoint available upon request**) was provided by Ms. Desiree’ Honoré Thomas, Assistant Commissioner for Statewide Services, Louisiana Division of Administration.

Ms. Thomas discussed the specifics as related to transfer of management, she gave a brief background on the matter, discussed the upcoming American Rescue Bill, referenced a newspaper article regarding challenges that states were facing administering the ERAP (a copy of the article(s) was requested by the Board Members – Secretary Brooks will provide such), noted that applications for rental assistance were initially received on March 5, 2021, discussed the Outreach and Communications plans, discussed the quality control protocols, responsibilities of the Team of Consultants and Vendors, and that enhancements to the ERAP were ongoing and were proving to be beneficial.

Board Member Head inquired as to any duplication of efforts between the State and the various Parishes who are administering the ERAP themselves.

Ms. Thomas advised that the State was working very closely with the LGUs.

Board Member Head inquired as to what was the administrative fee percentages.

Ms. Thomas noted that the current administrative fee percentage was a “little under 6%”, that the Legislature had authorized 7.2%, and that the Program denoted a maximum of 10%.

Additional informational on ERAP was provided by LHC COO Sweazy.

IBC Vidrine requested that Ms. Thomas provide an ERAP Update Report in-person at future Board Meetings, beginning with the May 12, 2021 BODM.

There were further discussions on ERAP between the Board Members, Ms. Thomas, and LHC staff.

Ms. Thomas advised the Board that DOA and LHC are subrecipients, and that the State is the primary recipient. Also, that total management of ERAP would be via DOA, with continued secondary assistance from LHC. And, that there would be no changes to the current application process workflows.

Board Member Jackson noted that the Caddo Parish ERAP ‘lottery’ was not working well, and stressed the “...fierce urgency of now!”

Board Member Treasurer Schroder noted his full support for the management transition of ERAP from LHC to DOA, noted his multiple attempts to get clarity as to “who was in charge”, and that he did not feel a Motion by the Board was needed to make the management transfer.

Board Member Jackson inquired as to whether “...is LHC staff not capable to run the ERAP?”

Ms. Thomas clarified that “...it was never that LHC was not capable...”, but that DOA has more expertise and experience in overseeing large amounts of federal funds.

Board Member Jackson noted for the Record that he wanted LHC staff to know that the Board “...believes in them and trusts them.”

IBC Vidrine concluded the ERAP discussion concurring with Ms. Thomas that DOA has managed large scale State-wide programs very effectively and prudently, and that she looked forward to Ms. Thomas’ appearance at the May 12, 2021 BODM.

OTHER BUSINESS

Board Member Jackson requested an update on Board Member Orientation.

IBC Vidrine noted that Secretary Brooks was handling such and would at a later date provide more specific of such. But that such would be contingent on future COVID-19 mitigation and relief efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other matters to discuss, Board Member Johnny Berthelot offered a motion for adjournment that was seconded by Board Member Willie Rack. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

The Full Board meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Chairwoman

Secretary