

*These minutes are not verbatim, but a condensed version of what transpired at the Lakewood Housing Authority (LHA) Board of Commissioners Special Meeting held on **Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 6:30 pm**, in the Community Room at the Rev. Albert Clayton Administration Building, 317 Sampson Avenue, Lakewood, NJ.*

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Miriam Medina called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm. Ana María García announced that consistent with the Open Public Meetings Law: P.L.1975 c231, which requires that all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public at all times, a notice of this meeting was provided to the clerk of the Township of Lakewood, the Ocean County Library, the Asbury Park Press, and the Star-Ledger on August 7, 2015, and was posted on the Authority's official designated public bulletin board at the LHA Administration Building.

### **ROLL CALL**

On roll call, attending Commissioners were:

Miriam Medina – *Chairperson*  
Eric Sherman – *Vice Chairperson*  
Gregory Stafford Smith – *Commissioner*  
Angela Caldwell – *Commissioner*

Also attending:

Mary Jo Grauso – *Executive Director*  
Scott Parsons – *Assistant Executive Director*  
Terrence Corriston – *Attorney*  
Ray Coles – *Township Liaison*

Absent were:

Joseph Weingarten – *Commissioner*  
Nechama Heinemann – *Commissioner*

**READING OF MINUTES** – None.

**BILLS AND APPROVAL OF SAME** – None.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES** – None.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – None.

**REPORT OF ATTORNEY** – None.

## **REPORT OF TOWNSHIP LIAISON**

Mr. Coles stated that the Mayor and Lakewood Township Committee had asked him to convey to the LHA Board that the Township had a contract with the Lakewood Township Residential Assistance Program (LTRAP). They would therefore be joining LTRAP in a lawsuit aimed at preventing HUD from transferring 1,100 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) from LTRAP to the LHA. The Township was requesting that the Board postpone, for one week, the passage of a resolution accepting the vouchers.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolutions**

**Resolution No. 5143** - Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Township of Lakewood Accepting the Administration of Additional Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. Ms. Grauso related that over the course of months, the HUD Field Office had contacted her regarding the investigation of LTRAP. HUD advised her that the LHA was its first choice to administer the Township program in the event its vouchers were to be transferred out. Ms. Grauso further stated that she was unable to discuss these phone calls with the Board having been advised by HUD of their extreme confidentiality. In addition, she assured the Board that the LHA in no way solicited or campaigned for the additional vouchers. HUD contacted her and requested that the LHA take them over.

Ms. Medina asked what would happen to the vouchers if the Board declined the responsibility of administering them. Ms. Grauso responded that she had been advised that HUD was considering the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), indicating that they would no longer be administered by a Lakewood agency.

Mr. Stafford Smith stated that it was the mission of the LHA to provide affordable housing. HUD is its source of funding, has expressed approval and demonstrated support of LHA management, and is now directly asking the Board to accept the LTRAP vouchers. He asked what the downside of giving that approval could be. Mr. Coles reiterated that the Township was not asking the Board to turn down the vouchers. It was only asking that it postpone the vote due to the pending injunction.

Ms. Medina and other Commissioners expressed concern that if the resolution were postponed, HUD would look to other agencies, removing the administration of the vouchers from Lakewood and further inconveniencing current Lakewood rental assistance recipients.

After additional discussion, motion to approve made by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Ms. Caldwell. On roll call approving, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Stafford Smith, Ms. Caldwell, and Ms. Medina. Resolution No. 5143 approved.

**MEETING OPENED TO HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENTS** – None.


**MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC** – None.

**COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Stafford Smith, seconded by Mr. Sherman, all present voted to adjourn at approximately 7:10 pm.

*I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.*

  
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Mary Jo Grauso, Secretary  
Executive Director