

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES OF SW WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 15, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

820 11th Ave.
Longview, WA
Minutes

Chair Ostermiller called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

PRESENT:

Chair, Wayne Ostermiller
Vice Chair, Floyd "Gus" Nolte
Commissioner, Peter Bennett
Commissioner, Allan Rudberg
Commissioner, Jerry Bakken
Commissioner, Marchelle Knapp
Secretary, Chris Pegg

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Katie Bonus, Asset Manager
Vickie Rhodes, Housing Programs Supervisor
Becky Phillips, Finance Manager

GUESTS:

Mary Alice Wallis, Longview City Councilmember

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION: CEO selection process

Vice Chair Nolte began the meeting by leading the group in a recitation of the Vision and Mission of the organization.

Chairperson Ostermiller shared his personal outlook on the mission and vision. He further stated the selection of a new CEO is an opportunity for the Board to show wisdom and strength. He briefly summarized the past successes of the organization and current programs and housing provided to a broad spectrum of low-income people including seniors, veterans and others with special needs.

Chairperson Ostermiller stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent email sent by Commissioner Rudberg to the Board and to the Longview City Council. This email expressed concerns about the current CEO selection process. He suggested the Board discuss each item of concern separately. The Board started to discuss the contents and implications of the email and its potential impact on the hiring process.

Commissioner Bakken made a motion to continue the meeting as originally planned. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion. Commissioners Bennett, Bakken, Knapp

and Vice Chair Nolte voted to approve the motion as presented. Commissioner Rudberg opposed the motion. Motion passed.

The Board discussed Commissioner Rudberg's concern with the selection process in general and his concern about potential legal impact to himself or the Board.

The Board discussed the concern that one of the applicants, Lori Bashor-Sarancik, may have had knowledge of the process that would provide an unfair advantage. The Board discussed the timing of former Commissioner Bashor-Sarancik's resignation from the Board and what work on the selection process was done prior to that time referencing both a timeline and previous minutes mentioning the CEO job description was discussed during the April 23rd regular board meeting and discussed again during the May board meeting. Commissioner Bennett suggested that the focus should be on getting the best possible candidate and that the hiring process be continued as previously outlined. Commissioner Bakken stated his belief that three (3) viable candidates had made it through the vetting process to this point and the process should be continued.

Commissioner Bakken made a motion for the Board to continue the process with the three (3) candidates. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion. During discussion on the motion concern was raised about the risk of missing out on getting the best candidate possible. A concern was also raised about damaging the reputation of the agency and the Board. It was suggested that concerns about the legality of the process could be addressed by having an attorney present in Executive session after the interviews if it was still necessary. Information about the hiring process was clarified with provision of the following schedule: There are two (2) interviews scheduled for Tuesday, October 16th and one (1) interview scheduled for Wednesday, October 17th. Following the interviews candidates will be taken on tours of the properties with a meeting with selected community members following at a later date. The Board will then meet again in Executive session to discuss all of the candidates **Vice Chair Nolte and Commissioners Bennett, Bakken, Knapp voted to approve the motion as presented. Commissioner Rudberg opposed.**

Commissioner Rudberg suggested the Board consider election of officers at the next meeting since Chairperson Ostermiller will be leaving the Board at the end of the year. That would allow time for a new Chair to gain experience from long-term board members. Chairperson Ostermiller requested this be added to the agenda for the October 29th Special Board meeting as a discussion item. Chairperson Ostermiller also reminded the Board that by-laws will be discussed at the same meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: October 22, 2018. *This meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, October 29th. It will be a Special Board meeting due to the change in date.

Respectfully submitted by:

CHRISTINA M. PEGG, Chief Executive Officer

BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Wayne Ostermiller
Wayne Ostermiller, Chair

Christina M. Pegg
Attest: Christina M. Pegg, Secretary