

ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY

16 MAIN STREET

CENTERBROOK, CT 06409

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860-767-1250

May 18, 2015

Present: RoseMary Willis, David Gephard, Rick Stebbins, Maria DeMarco and Tammy Mesite.

Absent: Janice Atkeson and Dawn Boulanger

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Secretary, RoseMary Willis.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 2015 meeting were approved as written.

Residents

David Gephard reported that a lot of residents have stated that they are very happy with the new lawn care person. The mulch also looks great all the residents are very pleased.

Financials

Financials were reviewed and some of the overages were discussed and explained.

Manager's Report was read and discussed.

Old Business

Grant application – The grant application was submitted. The decision will not be known until August. It was stated by the property manager that the state has visited the property.

Change in the BY Laws to put on more board members was discussed and questioned if the Board chair will worked with the town hall to see if this could happen. Again, it was suggested by David Gephard that they look for people from Ivoryton and or Centerbrook as all our board members are from the Essex section of town. Maria D. said she had passed on a name of a person who is interested and they are from Ivoryton.

New Development

EEAH for Essex Place – CHAMP 6 grant funds were awarded and now just waiting on closings. Ground breaking will probably not be until the end of September. Secretary RoseMary Willis presented a newspaper article "Letter to the Editor", see attached.

New Business

No new business at this time.

NEXT MEETING is July 20, 2015 at 4PM.

Regular Meeting was Adjourned at 4:45pm.

Motions and Votes for Regular Meeting

May 18, 2015

Motion: Approval of Minutes as written from the January 2015 board meeting

Motioned: Rick Stebbins

Seconded: David Gephard

Voted: All in favor

Motion: to Accept the financials from April 30, 2015

Motioned: David Gephard

Seconded: Rick Stebbins

Voted: All in favor

Motion: To Adjourn meeting at 4:30pm

Motioned: David Gephard

Seconded: Rick Stebbins

Voted: All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Tammy S. Mesite 4-18-15

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
05/19 2015 at 9:35 A.M.
Christine M. Rinaldi
ESSEX, CT TOWN CLERK *CR*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seems Like a Lot of Money

In two recent issues of the *Valley Courier* you publicized the awarding of a \$3.88 million grant to the Town of Essex to build 22 mostly one-bedroom apartments. This works out to \$174,000 per couple or individual who will occupy these units and whose income can be as high as \$70,000 per annum. This seems like a lot of money to spend housing 22 small families. If the Essex Board of Selectmen had proposed that the Essex taxpayers pay for this project, I doubt it would be approved at a town meeting. I further doubt that most other towns' residents would vote to tax themselves to support an expenditure of this sort.

However, because the money appears to be free, a grant from the Connecticut Housing Finance

Authority (CHFA), most Essex residents are probably either supportive of or indifferent to this project. Thus there is no vocal opposition to an expenditure the voters probably would not approve on their own. Consequently, expenditures of this sort continue around the state. They continue because the CHFA is supported financially by the State of Connecticut and the federal government, both of which are running large deficits. As a result, ever-increasing taxes and debt will be passed on to our children and grandchildren.

Unless we find a way to hold our elected officials at the state and federal levels accountable for their spending policies, we will continue down the road that is being traveled by Greece.

George L. Mayer
Essex