

Board Meeting – April 9, 2018 4:30 PM Monocacy Tower

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees: Gonzalez, Chairperson Long, McLendon, Linares, Ortiz, Solderitch and Attorney Matz.

Long- I'd like to call this meeting to order, would you all please stand for the pledge of allegiance. Take the roll please Mr. Gonzalez.

Gonzalez- Mrs. McLendon, here; Mr. Ortiz, here; Mr. Solderitch, here; Mrs. Linares, here; Attorney Matz, here and Chairman Long, here.

Long- I'll now entertain a motion to **Approve the Minutes** of the regular meeting of March 5th. Do I hear a motion?

Ortiz- So move.

Linares- I'll second it.

Long- Motion made and seconded by Commissioner Linares. Any questions on the motion? Hearing none, take the roll please.

Gonzalez- Mrs. McLendon, Aye; Mr. Ortiz, Aye; Mr. Solderitch, Aye; Mrs. Linares, Aye and Chairman Long, Aye.

Long- I'll now entertain a motion to accept the **Treasurer's Report**, as given at the review of the monthly bills for the March listing. Do I hear a motion to accept?

Ortiz- So move.

Long- Motion made by Commissioner Ortiz. Second?

Linares- I'll second it.

McLendon- No questions.

Long- Seconded by Commissioner Linares. Any questions on the motion? Hearing none. Please take the roll Mr. Gonzalez.

Gonzalez- Mrs. McLendon, Aye; Mr. Ortiz, Aye; Mr. Solderitch, Aye; Mrs. Linares, Aye and Chairman Long, Aye.

Long- We'll now go open the floor to Courtesy of the Floor for Agenda Items Only. Does anyone have anything to state or say? Hearing none. We'll go into Old Business. Do we have anything under old business?

Gonzalez- Nothing sir.

Long- Chairman's Report. I have nothing to report. I went out of town for a couple of weeks and I'm still catching up with the change of weather coming back from Florida.

Linares- Don't rub it in.

Long- I apologize.

Long- It was cold down there. I froze down there.

Linares- Was it. The week I was down there, it was nice.

Long- The week I was there too. I'll now go to the Executive Directors' Report.

Gonzalez- I have one minor item. Our monthly meeting with the BHA community police officers will be held on Wednesday, April 11th, and at that time there will be a review of any drug and/or criminal activity occurring on our properties. That's all.

Long- Thank you Mr. Gonzalez. Committee Reports, anything from the Scholarship Committee.

Linares- I have nothing to report.

Long- Mrs. McLendon?

McLendon- I have nothing to report either.

Long- Mrs. Jarinko?

Jarinko- Just that the applications are due in here by Tuesday, April 17th for the senior scholarships.

Long- April 17th they're due?

Jarinko- Yes.

Long- Thank you Mrs. Jarinko. Finance Committee, I have nothing to report. Mr. Rogelio?

Ortiz I have nothing.

Long- Nothing to report! Personnel Committee, Commissioner Linares.

Linares- I have nothing.

Long- Commissioner Solderitch?

Solderitch- I have nothing.

Long- Resident Advisory Committee, Mr. Ortiz.

Ortiz- Yes I have a couple of things. We have a 4-H program up at the Lynfield Community Center and CACLV is going to try to obtain a 501-C3 application for us. They're going to try to provide funding year round for us. And I'll just keep you in touch of what's going on in the upcoming months.

Long- This is for?

Ortiz- The Lynfield Community Center.

Long- Oh ok.

Linares- Is it just them?

Ortiz- Yes they're going to try to provide like four hours per day and pay for that. They're going to try to provide funding and grants for our center so we can just keep it up and running. and we can do more things with the kids.

Gonzalez- Resident Councils are permitted to receive donations and what have you, so this is sort of what it's going to be.

Linares- Oh ok.

Gonzalez- But they need a tax reporting base, so they need to become a 501-C3.

Linares- So the others, Parkridge and

Gonzalez- ...they do not have an active resident councils. But any of our active resident councils if they want too can do the same thing. Some already receive a stipend from the authority in the amount of seventy-five dollars.

Long- You have another report Mr. Ortiz.

Ortiz- The resident advisory board right?

Long- Yes.

Ortiz- And the next resident advisory board meeting will be held in August on a date to be determined.

Long- Thank you again Mr. Ortiz. Under Resolutions, we have the resolution for Lease Modification for the BHA Tenant Lease. I would try to read it but I can't read it my advisor told me.

Gonzalez - What this is about is that the current regulations under Megan's law has now differing levels of sex offenses in addition to life time sex offenders. In order to further protect children residing in our apartments we proposed to ban all sex offenders from our properties, not merely lifetime offenders. So this is just changing the language in the lease to eliminate the word lifetime to all sex offenders.

Long- I'm unable to read I had my eyes dilated today. I apologize for that. Do I hear a motion to accept the resolution?

Solderitch- I'll make a motion.

McLendon- I'll second it.

Long- Any questions on the motion? Hearing none. Please take the roll Mr. Gonzalez.

Gonzalez- Mrs. McLendon, Aye; Mr. Ortiz, Aye; Mr. Solderitch, Aye; Mrs. Linares, Aye and Chairman Long, Aye.

Long- The second resolution deals with the Wage Attachments for the Clerical/Administrative Employees. *You've all read it. Do I have motion?*

Linares- I'll make a motion to accept.

Long- Motion made.

Solderitch- I'll second it.

Long- Seconded by Commissioner Solderitch. Any questions on the motion? Please take the roll Mr. Gonzalez.

Gonzalez- Mrs. McLendon, Aye; Mr. Ortiz, Aye; Mr. Solderitch, Aye; Mrs. Linares, Aye and Chairman Long, Aye.

Long- The third resolution deals with The Concrete Service Contract – Unit Prices. And based on the bidding process and the apparent low bidder Advanced Excavating, we have a recommendation by Mr. Kichline that we accept them. Do I hear a motion to that affect?

McLendon- I'll make a motion.

Long- Is there a second on that motion?

Solderitch- I'll second it.

Long- Seconded by Mr. Solderitch. Any questions on that motion? Hearing none. Please take the roll Mr. Gonzalez.

Gonzalez- Mrs. McLendon, Aye; Mr. Ortiz, Aye; Mr. Solderitch, Aye; Mrs. Linares, Aye and Chairman Long, Aye.

Long- We'll now go into that portion of the meeting that deals with New Business? Do we have anything under new business?

Ortiz- I have something to say.

Long- Mr. Ortiz.

Ortiz- I been working closely with this lady name Nikki Testa. She runs the Backpack Pals program our school district. She used to take care of twenty schools providing the parents who are in need with a weekend package of food; to last them for a week for those who are less fortunate. Funding has been going a little bad. She has been running the program for about close to five years now. And she's been supplying food for our families that are in need for the last four years. And I would like us to give her a hand by donating \$1,500 towards her cause, Backpack Pals. Now, she's down to tens schools and out of those ten schools

they're all for BHA properties. She takes care of Pembroke, Parkridge, Lynfield and other communities that are less fortunate that don't have food to eat sometimes when it comes to long weekends.

So I propose that we cut out a check for \$1,500 and I would like the board of commissioners to present that check to her at the school board meeting which is held on the fourth Monday of April. This is really for a good cause. She's been in our corner for the last four to five years. And \$1500 is nothing for the work that she does and it's all volunteer work, so I'm sure she'll appreciate that. Like I said the majority of the kids are from families in our community.

Gonzalez- One thing that Mr. Ortiz did not say because I've spoken to him about this in the past, is that this organization is funded through CACLV who has had their funds cut. So the actually check will be in her name but it would go to CACLV, just so you know that ahead of time.

Ortiz- The memo will say Backpack Pals.

Long- Do I hear a motion to that affect?

Linares- It's called Backpack Pals....

Ortiz- ...Backpack Pals.

Solderitch- I make the motion we donate the \$1500.

Long- Is there a second to that motion?

Linares- I'll second the motion.

Ortiz- Thank you.

Long- Are there any questions on the motion? The majority of these kids are

Ortiz- ...living in poverty.

Long- Mostly living in public housing.

Ortiz- Yes!

Long- The majority?

Ortiz- Yes.

Gonzalez- Well, the program that she works for with Mr. Ortiz they're all Lynfield kids mostly. Correct?

Ortiz- Yes! She definitely takes care of Lynfield but not only Lynfield. She takes care of Pembroke and the Parkridge kids. Also the local kids that go to Liberty and East Hills. They just don't concentrate on Lynfield they concentrate on most poor neighborhoods in the school district.

Gonzalez- And from what I understand it, they're going to cut some of the places they serve and one of them will not be ours.

Ortiz- Right!

Ortiz- They used to serve twenty schools and now they're down to ten. And out of those ten all of our kids go to those schools. They put their names down on the list even though the kids might feel a little shy about it. They just make a list and she delivers the food.

Long- Any other questions. Hearing none. Please take the roll Mr. Gonzalez.

Gonzalez- Mrs. McLendon, Aye; Mr. Ortiz, Aye; Mr. Solderitch, Aye; Mrs. Linares, Aye and Chairman Long, Aye.

Long- Anything else under new business?

Gonzalez- Nothing sir. Hearing none. We'll go to **Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business – Board Members, Solicitor and Staff.**

McLendon- I'd just like to say last Saturday, the Saturday before Easter, we had a community Easter egg hunt. It was wonderful to see all the little kids that came out, the way they were dressed like they were going to church for Easter. We have a lot of nice pictures, so I'll send them to Gene. But just to see the smiles on these kids' faces. The people said they don't remember having anything like this there. So I told them this is going to be the first of many.

I have to say I think a change is being made in our community based on that because they're learning principles and values that a lot of them didn't know before; even their parents. So it's wonderful. The change is coming in a positive way.

Gonzalez-

That's good.

Long-

We don't have resident council there now?

McLendon-

We have two people right now, and I got the two of them together on that Saturday. So Christa is going to step up and Shantia is going to back her and I guess from there we'll get a secretary.

Gonzalez-

Well, what they have to do is get in touch with Mirella Snow and she sets up the elections.

McLendon-

I think she talked to Mirella.

Gonzalez-

She may have.

McLendon-

but I'll still push that.

Gonzalez-

Good!

McLendon-

I'll still push that, but so far we have those two names.

Ortiz-

I will also like to add and thank Mrs. McLendon for her leadership in Parkridge because several years ago it was a ghost town when it came to activities. But Mrs. McLendon has been a blessing. She has been a leader in that community. I know she is a blessing because she's always keeping the people's spirits high in different activities, so I would like to commend her. Thank you so much Mrs. McLendon for making a big difference.

McLendon-

Thank you. And one more thing. Sometime in July, we have to work on a date, we're having a bus ride for the community and we're going up to Lancaster. A lot of people in this community, they haven't even been on vacation. Vacation to them is going to visit family in Brooklyn or Philadelphia that's vacation to these people. They've never been to Lancaster, so we're going to the Sight and Sound Theatre for the day and then after that we're going to Shady Maples for dinner. So they're really looking forward to that.

Long- Is there an extra seat on the bus?
Everyone laughed.

Long- I'm in for Shady Maples.

Solderitch- Oh yeah, that's a good place.

McLendon- A couple of people asked. We can get together as a board and do that. We can do that Joe, as a board and housing trip.

Solderitch- Yes we can do that and go to Shady Maples.

Linares- I'd like to go for Sight and Sound.

McLendon- Well, I'll let you know if they're extra seats.

Long- Thank you Mrs. McLendon. I appreciate the effort that you're putting forth in Parkridge and it's good to see we're going to get a resident council up there.

McLendon- I am still pushing.

Long- Too bad we can't get them everywhere. That would be a great thing because people don't know what they're missing. Because if they would all come together in community meetings and just sit down and discuss the situations that are occurring everyday there, it would be better for everybody there.

Long- Anything else under miscellaneous reports and board members? Public Comments?

Lynn- Yes.

Long- Yes sir.

Lynn- I would like to ask if there can be a way new applicants can get on the waiting list at this point.

Gonzalez- Right now, our waiting list is closed due to the fact that we have seventeen hundred people on it.

Board- Wow!

- Gonzalez- We cannot spend administrative time filling out an application for citizens that are unlikely to be placed for ten years. So that is the reason.
- Lynn- There are a lot of people who cannot get housing because there is no waiting list.
- Gonzalez- Oh I'm sure. In fact, the waiting list is closed here, at Allentown, at Easton Housing Authority and Northampton and Lehigh County Housing Authorities. There's a dearth of housing in the Lehigh Valley in general.
- Lynn- Well, we have to start someone and getting on a list is the first place to start.
- Gonzalez- Right! Once it becomes manageable we will open it up again.
- Long- Anything else under public comments? Thank you for your comments sir, we appreciate it. Anything else under public comments? Hearing none. The next board meeting will be on Monday, May 14th at 4:30 P.M. in this building. This meeting is adjourned.


Eugene J. Gonzalez
Secretary