**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

**The Board of Commissioners of the Dracut Housing Authority met at a special meeting on September 28, 2018. Chairman Russell Taylor opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and upon roll call vote those present were as follows:**

**PRESENT: Matthew Sheehan**

 **Debra DeWitt Ahern**

 **F. Russell Taylor**

**ABSENT: George Nangle**

 **Jesse Forcier**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Mary T. Karabatsos**

 **Kelley Szymanski**

**Chairman Taylor announced that the Board Meeting is being taped.**

**Chairman Taylor stated - PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21 (a) (1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.**

**Commissioner Sheehan made a motion to go into Executive Session. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner DeWitt Ahern. Roll Call vote was as follows: Commissioner Sheehan – yes, Commissioner DeWitt Ahern – yes, Chairman Russell Taylor – yes.**

**The Director stated that Fred Spicer has made an Open Meeting Law Violation Complaint to the Attorney General’s Office. The Director stated that she has been working with Lori McBride, State Attorney who advised her on the process that the housing authority would have to go through in regards to the Open Meeting Law Violation. The Director stated that she did not believe that the housing authority violated the Open Meeting Law. The law states that the housing authority should convene and discuss this violation.**

**Commissioner Sheehan stated that in his point of view and based on the nine years that he served on the Dracut School Committee there was never any back and forth discussion with people who requested to speak at a meeting. Commissioner Sheehan stated that he does not believe that this board violated the Open Meeting Law.**

**The Director stated that the Open Meeting Law does state that the Chairperson runs the meeting and it is up to the Chair to allow someone to speak or not to speak. This is exactly what Chairman Taylor did and therefore did not violate the law.**

**Commissioner DeWitt Ahern said that the Chair governs the process and that is exactly what Chairman Taylor did. Commissioner DeWitt Ahern also said that the Chair can limit the length of time the public can speak. Commissioner Sheehan stated that he believes that the amount of time is usually two minutes.**

**Chairman Taylor stated that the most recent Open Meeting Law seminar that he went to the Attorney running the class said that housing authorities should not have Resident & Public Participation on the agenda. Chairman Taylor said that we did nothing wrong and we made sure that we followed the law.**

**Chairman Taylor also said that Mr. Spicer complained about the fact that there was a Dracut policeman at the meeting. Chairman Taylor said that a policeman was there because of the way Mr. Spicer acted at a previous meeting. Commissioner DeWitt Ahern said that there was a policeman at the meeting also because of the way Mr. Spicer has been acting towards the Executive Director. His emails have become threatening, harassing, and bullying. The policeman was here to protect everyone including the elderly residents. Commissioner DeWitt Ahern said that we did nothing wrong. Mr. Spicer was allowed to speak, and he was given an allotted time to speak. Commissioner DeWitt Ahern said that the rules were followed.**

**The Director stated that if the Resident & Public Participation is omitted from the Agenda, the Chairman can still recognize people that are at the meeting.**

**Commissioner Sheehan stated that the number of requests that Mr. Spicer has submitted is taking a lot of time from the daily routine of both the Director and the Deputy Director.**

**Commissioner DeWitt Ahern made a motion that the Dracut Housing Authority did not violate the Open Meeting Law. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan and upon roll call vote passed.**

**Commissioner DeWitt Ahern made a motion to remove the Public Participation from the agenda. And address the resident’s needs as they come before the board. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan and upon roll call vote passed.**

**Commissioner Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner DeWitt Ahern and upon roll call vote passed. Commissioner DeWitt Ahern – yes, Commissioner Sheehan – yes, and Chairman Taylor - yes.**

**Roll call vote to open meeting back up again in Open Session. Commissioner DeWitt Ahern – yes, Commissioner Sheehan – yes, Chairman Taylor – yes.**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Commissioner DeWitt Ahern made a motion to remove the Public Participation from the agenda. And address the resident’s needs as they come before the board. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan and upon roll call vote passed.**

**Commissioner DeWitt Ahern stated that the Executive Director should notify the Attorney General’s Office that a special meeting was held and that the Board of Commissioners do not believe that they violated the Open Meeting Law.**

**Commissioner DeWitt Ahern made a motion that the Dracut Housing Authority did not violate the Open Meeting Law. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan and upon roll call vote passed.**

**Commissioner Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner DeWitt Ahern and upon roll call vote passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned 9:22 a.m.**