MEDFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 POUND STREET
MEDFIELD, MA 02052
508-359-6454

The Special/ Executive Session meeting of the Medfield Housing Authority was held March 7th, 2025 starting at 11:00am in the Community Room of Tilden and via Zoom Hybrid Option for the open portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Canavan sat as acting Vice Chairman of the meeting and opened at 11:12am

Roll Call:

Present	Absent	None
Chairwoman Kathy McDonald		
Commissioner Stacey Yakel		
Commissioner Paul Hinkley		
Commissioner Rob Canavan via Zoom		

Also Present: Candace Avery - Executive Director, Attorney Jonathan Driscoll, Marion Bonoldi: Town Clerk, via Zoom.

Item 2 Discussed prior to Item 1 as the decision of item 2 impacts Item 1.

Item 1: Election of Officers: Commissioner Paul Hinkley motioned to postpone the Election of Officers. Commissioner Rob Canavan acting as Vice Chairman denied the motion moving to vote for position. Commissioner Rob Canavan motioned for Commissioner Kathy McDonald as Chairperson. Commissioner Paul Hinkley motioned to nominate himself for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Kathy McDonald motioned to nominate herself for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Stacey Yakel voted to nominate Kathy McDonald for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Rob Canavan called for the vote to nominate Commissioner Kathy McDonald as Chairperson effective immediately (majority vote), Commissioner Kathy McDonald seconded. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Rob Canavan: Yes, Commissioner Stacey Yakel: Yes, Commissioner Paul Hinkley: Yes, Commissioner Kathy McDonald: Yes.

Item 2: Discussion of the residency of Commissioner Rob Canavan and its impact on his continued eligibility to serve as a commissioner.
Attorney Jonathan Driscoll began by trying to explain the position and responsibilities of the Chairperson. Commissioner Rob Canavan as acting Chairperson was having difficulty hearing, Commissioner Kathy McDonald asked if the meeting should be held if Commissioner Canavan could not hear. His reception cleared and decision made to continue with the meeting.
Commissioner Rob Canavan as acting Chairperson then took the floor and would not allow Attorney Driscoll to speak or continue, stating that he felt intimidated because Attorney Driscoll had contacted him on the time and date that he had, which was over the weekend. He stated again that he felt intimidated and had no faith in Attorney Driscoll and that he did not like how he handled it.
Commissioner McDonald explained the course of the steps that had been taken to have Commissioner Rob Canavan removed from his position from the board based on the items presented that document his residency in Norwood and the legal letters that were sent to Commissioner Canavan from Attorney Driscoll.

Attorney Driscoll asked Commissioner Rob Canavan as acting Chairperson to allow him to speak to explain the legal aspects of the matter. Commissioner Canavan as acting Chairperson acknowledged Attorney Driscoll's request to speak. Attorney Driscoll provided the fact that Commissioner Canavan is not residing in Medfield and is in fact residing in Norwood and has been for 2.5 years. Under the Town MGL 121B, Section 6, it is made clear that when an individual ceases to be a resident of the town they can no longer serve on the town board. After the Medfield Board Meeting that was held in February, which was problematic and caused the current issues at hand, Commissioner Canavan's residency came to light. The legal paperwork provided to Commissioner Canavan documents and makes clear reference to Commissioner Canavan's residency as Norwood, Ma. Commissioner Canavan agreed to this fact and then stated that it was known that he was residing in Norwood. ED and board members stated that they in fact did not know that he was not residing in Medfield and was in fact residing in Norwood. Commissioner Canavan then proceeded to speak about the maintenance position and that he wanted and expected to hire the individual for the position and he wanted an answer. He then presented that he told the ED to take care of the matter concerning the exposed electrical box in the MHA parking lot (ED had discussed matter at board meetings and the progress of the issue – area was secured with caution tape and emergency cones while matter in process of resolution).

Attorney Driscoll addressed the two matters brought by Commissioner Canavan stating the regulation for housing that prohibits board members from being involved in the day-to-day operations of the authority or the hiring and firing of staff positions. He stated that it is inappropriate for a board member to be involved in this capacity as it is the position of the Executive Director to oversee contractually. Attorney Driscoll stated that the board oversees effectiveness and not the process of hiring and firing. Attorney Driscoll then proceeded to reposition the discussion on the matter at hand of Item 2 regarding Commissioner Canavan's declared residency. He stated the documented residency of Norwood as being effective as of May 3rd, 2023 as noted in his Divorce agreement, and at this point Commissioner Canavan should have ceased to be a board member. Attorney Driscoll addressed the matter of contacting Commissioner Canavan on a Saturday and informed him that he had hoped to contact him on Friday, however the paperwork was not completed so he contacted him on Saturday to discuss the matter, provide the information, and provide Commissioner Canavan the option to resign.

Commissioner Canavan interrupted the continuation of the discussion and stopped Attorney Driscoll from speaking. He then would not allow Attorney Driscoll the option to finish speaking after Attorney Driscoll tried through multiple attempts to state that he had not been allowed the ability to provide all of the details regarding the matter in order for all of the board members to make a completely informed decision.

Commissioner Paul Hinkley stated that he has been attending the Medfield board meetings for 30 years and that he has never seen anything like this. He stated that when previous Chairperson Roberta Lynch was on the board and she moved out of town that she had to resign the month that she moved and that she did.

Commissioner Kathy McDonald discussed Commissioner Canavan's residency stating that he has dual residency according to the town as he pays taxes and votes in town. She stated that he will be up for re-election and that he had stated that he will be moving back into his Medfield residence. Commissioner McDonald stated that she did not want to take the right of the voters away as a commissioner and that learning of this matter after the action to remove Commissioner Canavan had been taken left her with a distaste if the decision impacts purview. Commissioner McDonald then proceeded to request a formal vote on the matter of Commissioner Canavan remaining in his position on the board.

ED and Attorney Driscoll were requesting the opportunity to be allowed to speak and provide additional relevant information important to the vote but were denied by Commissioner Rob Canavan as acting Chairperson.

Commissioner McDonald continued with motion requesting vote for Commissioner Canavan to remain on the board until the Town Election. Commissioner Hinkley stated that he would not due to the fact

that Commissioner Canavan was not a resident of Medfield. Commissioner McDonald called for the roll call vote.
Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Kathy McDonald: Yes, Commissioner Rob Canavan: Yes, Commissioner Stacey Yakel: Yes, Commissioner Paul Hinkley: No.
ED requested once again to be able to speak. Commissioner Rob Canavan as acting Chairperson acknowledged and allowed to speak. ED stated that Commissioner Canavan had been acting inappropriately towards her and had inappropriately been inserting himself on the property every day throughout the day. ED had asked Commissioner Canavan to stop and told him that he was crossing the lines as a board member. Commissioner Canavan's behavior escalated at this point and then culminated when he aggressively addressed Chris McCue Potts at the February meeting and then blamed the ED for his action, which ED had no part of. ED then stated that had he been allowed to insert his position on the matter relating to the parking lot and the Electrical Box that he would have disrupted her ability to obtain the funding from EOHLC for the replacement of the parking lot due to its terrible condition which is a health and safety matter for the residents. Commissioner Stacey Yakel stated that she was not aware of all of the details of the matter related to Commissioner Canavan and wanted to change her vote. Commissioner McDonald stated that the matter had already been voted on and finalized and therefore she could not do so. ED stated that was why details should have been allowed to be discussed rather than denied by Commissioner Canavan as acting Chairperson. Argument ensued and conversation was stopped by Commissioner Canavan who then acknowledged Town Clerk Marion Bonaldi to speak, who was in attendance via Zoom.
Marion Bonaldi discussed Commissioner Canavan's residency stating that under the Commonwealth he is a registered voter in Medfield and that his ID shows that he has a Medfield address. She stated that it is not anyone's business where he puts his head to the pillow. Marion then stated that he is on the ballot for the town election and that this matter should not have been brought.
Attorney Driscoll requested to be able to respond, Commissioner Rob Canavan as acting Chairperson acknowledged stating that he could respond. Attorney Driscoll stated that the election of the town is a separate matter and should be handled by town counsel. This matter is a conditioned precedent and it is not too late to still address it under chapter 121B with a judge that would interpret the case to make a decision. Moving forward the Executive Director can also file a lawsuit regarding the matter and has been made aware of this option.

Chairperson Kathy McDonald requested a Motion to Adjourn Open Session by Roll Call Vote Invoking Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law – Entering into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation by Chris McCue-Potts where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, which the acting Chair so declares.
The open session will not reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.
Motion to Adjourn Open Session at 12:29 PM
Chairperson Kathy McDonald: Yes
Commissioner Rob Canavan: Yes
Commissioner Stacey Yakel: Yes
Commissioner Paul Hinkley: Yes
Vote – Unanimous 4-0
Zoom option ended, Executive Session entered.

Material included in Board Packets
Agenda