

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
EVERETT HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**Tuesday November 10, 2020 AT 5:00 PM
393 FERRY STREET, EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS**

I. Roll Call

The Chairman asked the Secretary to call the Roll:

Present: Mr. Puleo, Mr. Colameta, Mr. Barrett and Mr. Norton
Absent: None
Others: Stephen Kergo, Executive Director and Francis J. LaRovere, III, Legal Counsel.

II. Minutes: None

III. Old Business: None

- A. **Discussion:** Concerning Attorney General Open Meeting Law Complaint Received on November 2, 2020. To review the Everett Housing Authority's response options to the complaint filed.

The Chairman noted that all members have received a copy of the complaint. He further explained that the Executive Director and Attorney LaRovere had met to discuss EHA's option in formulating a response and that the Board members have received a recommended response in their packets. The Chair asked Mr. Kergo to comment on the response drafted. Prior to Mr. Kergo's comments the Chair asked Attorney LaRovere a procedural question on whether the Board would be required to take a vote to approve the response. Attorney LaRovere stated that the only requirement under the Statute is that the Board meets to review the complaint. The Chair noted that there would be no vote.

Mr. Kergo commented that EHA took into consideration previous training and that EHA had complied with the Certifications once able to do so. Documentation will show that (Open meeting law) training was in place. The Chair asked if any members had comments on the Attorney's response or should anything change in the response. Mr. Colameta stated that he was comfortable with the response. He thanked Attorney LaRovere for his quick response and that in the future the Chair make sure that these compliances are in cooperated in the "calendar". Attorney LaRovere mentioned the he discussed with the Executive Director on whether the Board would want to take a vote to authorize him (Executive Director) in the future to make it his responsibility to make sure that we are in compliance with educational component of 30A. He further stated that Mr. Kergo spoke with *the Attorney General's office* (correction - Mr. Kergo spoke with Department of Housing and Community Development staff). It was thought that it may be best to hold that (option) in case there were any investigatory procedures that come of this, could be something to offer an investigator. He thought Mr. Kergo believes we had addressed Open Meeting Law training under Chapter 121B. With the COVID-19 shutdown and the Board being sworn in this February that it was nearly impossible to be in compliance.

Mr. Colameta asked that the Chairman and the Director put something together for the next meeting to address this issue. The Chair instructed the Executive Director to add a discussion to the next regular meeting to confirm that Policies are properly documented.

The Chair stated that we should move forward with the response.

IV. Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Colameta and seconded by Mr. Barrett to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Voice approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Kergo
Executive Director