

# **TOWN OF SCITUATE**

## **Scituate Housing Authority**

**Regular Meeting Saturday February 10, 2018, 9:00 Am**

**Rockland Oaks Housing Project – Community Room 104 Rockland Road**

**NORTH SCITUATE, RI 02857**

## **MINUTES**

**Call to Order at 8:58 AM Present- Finnegan, Costa, Butola - Excused – Fay and Drobnis**

**Costa opens meeting indicating Commissioner Fay's mother has passed away and a moment of silence is observed for Mrs. Fay.**

**Costa makes a motion to move item 5, water status as first matter on the agenda 2nd Butola motion carries. Mr. Ferrari and Mr. Anderson of Northeast Water Solutions step up to present the state of the evaluation of the wells, water quality and project scope.**

**Presentation of evaluation of the system findings and scope moving ahead. Relying on the report, RI DOH filings at the RI Department of Health, physical examination water tests. The first thing is to inform that the last tests revealed all 5 wells tested clean and the boll water notice is canceled. Explanation of a public water supply is given.**

**Why it is important, and should be considered by this board. The scientists went through the steps to evaluate sanitize and clean existing wells, the levels of current agents in the water to date.**

**Describing the next steps if the board chooses to move ahead with the close monitoring and public system. Hydraulics, capacity and**

water quality will be forefront of the RI DOH. A note: that the existing well system would be unlikely to sustain new buildings, which would require a new and redesigned and engineered system to support additional buildings. Steps are in the technical memorandum; followed by a scope of work, which the RI DOH would require to get the system to a public water supply which comes strongly recommended. Both, Costa and Finnegan interject that this is most likely the direction of this board, Cost also compliments the company for the responsiveness. Costa harkens that the situation is a moral objective and describes it as the baseline and as being paramount and putting legacy protocols in place. The board is impressed with Northeast's reporting, work and diligence. EPA and state RI DOH recognized about a decade ago that small systems have fiscal constraints. And when the SHA moves to a public system granny's and programs and resources will be available for future improvements. (Upon becoming a public system). Residents have questions about the testing and impact of decisions of the past. The engineers described that the project was initially a public water system but "somewhere in the mid 90's a decision was made to become a private system and the water analytical data base stopped at that point; by physically separate the piping." From the mid 90's the RI DOH has no records of testing so there is no data. It should also be noted that the RI DOH at the time of separation urged against it, in writing. In light of all the pending questions Chair Finnegan asks if we should reach out to Mr. Mende for explanations. Costa recall that Peg Cotter asks for answers back in the 90's. The fact is brought

up as a reminder that the water issue has been ongoing. Cecilia Gouda has resided at the Oaks from 1998 and was visibly upset with the closed door operations with regard to water, treatment of residents. Where were all the new folks asking questions then? The residents are concerned with cancer diagnosis. Motion to accept the scope of work and contract by Costa, 2nd by Butola - Motion carries. Motion by Costa to return to regular agenda order 2nd Butola Motion carries. Motion to approve January minutes by Costa 2nd Butola Motion carries. Motion to approve expenditures Costa - 2nd Butola Motion carries. Motion to update banking information by Costa 2nd Butola, Motion carries.

Communications: Invite from RI Inter Local Trust, for professional development. The yearend financials to be uploaded by Chaput and Feeney, in advance of forensic audit which will be done by Michael Guyder and Associates.

Property managers report read moved and accepted. A discussion of waitlist is undertaken and mentions of bad practices of the past is noted by Chair Finnegan, Scituate resident applications seem to always be lost or people dissuaded from applying. Residents do support that often any complaint was met with a threat by the past mismanagement. Costa indicates the current problems are trying to be politicized, she refuses to politicize the issues, as the problems need to be solved. Costa states, "This is an emotional issue." Finnegan asks about the transparency and where these decisions were made. Where did all the money go? ineligible tenants, boiler and thermostat expenditures, threats to tenants upon lease signings,

**laundry money receipts, Costa is compiling a report to the Scituate Town Council.**

**Costa wants the legal counsel to be made aware of all these events and if actions can be taken against the past company, et al the SHA has a duty to sue. Next meeting is Saturday, March 10, 2018 9:00 AM  
Motion to adjourn 10:46 AM**