



Louisiana Housing Corporation

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LHC Board of Directors

***SPECIAL* Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 9, 2017

**2415 Quail Drive
V. Jean Butler Board Room
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
9:00 A.M.**

Board Members Present

Lloyd S. "Buddy" Spillers
Jennifer Vidrine
Michael T. Anderson
Tammy P. Earles
Thomas Enright (on behalf of Treasurer Ron J. Henson)
Larry Ferdinand
Elton M. Lagasse
Willie Rack
Donald B. Vallee
Gillis R. Windham

Board Members Absent

Nancy T. Montoya

Staff Present

Barry E. Brooks
Edselle Keith Cunningham, Jr.
Bradley Sweazy
Janel Young
Rene Landry
Leslie C. Strahan
Christine Bratkowski
Miriam Bowie

Carlette Powell
Marjorianna Willman
Sarah Mulhearn
Natasha Joseph-Anderson
Kevin Brady

Others Present

See Guest Sign-In Sheet

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairman Lloyd S. “Buddy” Spillers called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Board Secretary Barry E. Brooks called the roll; there was a quorum.

Chairman Spillers welcomed Mr. Thomas Enright who will be attending the LHC Board of Directors Meetings and serving as the Official Delegate for Louisiana State Treasurer Ron J. Henson, with all voting rights and privileges thereof.

AGENDA ITEM #2

Next item discussed was a resolution approving and authorizing the Board to enter into contract with Edselle Keith Cunningham, Jr. as LHC Executive Director.

On a motion by Board Member Elton M. Lagasse and seconded by Board Member Willie Rack, the resolution approving the contract of Edselle Keith Cunningham, Jr. as Executive Director; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate.

Board Member Donald B. Vallee noted for the record that after further review of the Administrative & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, he was withdrawing a previous email request he'd sent to the Board wherein he had expressed his concerns regarding the process appointing Mr. Cunningham as LHC Executive Director

Board Member Vallee furthered that he disagreed with the process done to negotiate the contract with Mr. Cunningham and feels that more input and dialogue should have been done; that he thinks the salary offered is more than what other entities pay; and that he was concerned that only Chairman Spillers and Board Member Lagasse had negotiated the salary..

Chairman Spillers noted for the record that he along with AFC Chairman Lagasse had worked on the contract; that AFC Chairman Lagasse is well versed in employment contracts and salary negotiations; that the contract has been further reviewed by the Long Law Firm; that Matthew Block of the Governor's Office had reviewed the contract; and that the salary had in fact been reduced by the Governor's Office from its original amount

so that it would be in range of what other Cabinet Secretaries with similar responsibilities are paid.

Board Member Gillis R. Windham noted that though he likes search committees, he prefers to hire from within to boost employee moral; and that the felt Mr. Cunningham had "...earned the job."

Board Member Lagasse noted that he felt a search committee would have been a waste of resources; and that Mr. Cunningham had done both jobs "...confidently."

Board Member Enright noted that he appreciated that there had been input on the matter from the Governor's Office.

Board Member Willie Rack noted that he too believes in in-house hiring; and that he is satisfied with the job Mr. Cunningham has done so far and foresees even better things being done.

Board Member Vallee moved to Call The Question.

On a motion by Board Member Elton M. Lagasse and seconded by Board Member Willie Rack, the resolution approving the contract of Edselle Keith Cunningham, Jr. as Executive Director; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment; a Roll Call Vote was taken to approve entering into contact with Mr. Edselle Keith Cunningham, Jr. as LHC Executive Director, and the votes were: 10 (YES) to 0 (NO). The votes were as follows:

YES (Jennifer Vidrine, Michael T. Anderson, Tammy P. Earles, Thomas Enright, Larry Ferdinand, Elton M. Lagasse, Willie Rack, Gillis R. Windham, Donald B. Vallee, and Lloyd S. Spillers).

NO (None).

ABSENT (Nancy T. Montoya).

Thereafter, Mr. Cunningham thanked the Board, and stated that "...I intend to fulfill the mission of the Agency from a personal measure and from a professional measure...I definitely will do more than my best to meet the needs of the citizens of the state...."

AGENDA ITEM #3

Next item discussed was the resolution regarding the issuance of \$53,452.00 in 4% non-competitive LIHTCs to Gabriel Villa.

Gulf Coast Developer David Harms addressed the Board and discussed why the project needed additional resources.

Board Vice-Chairwoman Jennifer Vidrine RECUSED herself from participating in the aforementioned matter, and stated the following into the Record: "I am the Mayor of the City of Ville Platte, so I hereby take these means to RECUSE myself and be silent on this matter on the Agenda."

On a motion by Board Member Donald B. Vallee and seconded by Board Member Elton M. Lagasse, the resolution authorizing and approving the issuance of an addition of fifty-three thousand, four hundred fifty-two dollars (\$53,452.00) for a total reservation of two hundred thirty-two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$232,754.00) in 4% non-competitive Low Income Housing Tax Credits to Gabriel Villa, (806 N. Latour Street, Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish, Louisiana); and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Board Member Larry Ferdinand requested a list of all LHC employees making over \$60K annual salary.

Board Member Ferdinand requested the Final Report from Helen Cunningham, and any other Supplement Report(s) thereof. ED Cunningham noted he'd forward such to the Board.

There were further discussions on the report(s) from Helen Cunningham by Board Members Ferdinand and Vallee, and ED Cunningham and COO Bradley Sweazy.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other matters to discuss, Board Member Willie Rack offered a motion for adjournment that was seconded by Board Member Elton M. Lagasse. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

The Full Board meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.


Chairman


Secretary