



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### SPECIAL MEETING

1449 Jericho Circle; Aurora, IL 60506 – AHA Board Room  
April 16, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

**Present:** Joe Grisson III, Chairman  
Meloyne Wimbley, Vice Chairman  
Shireen Long, Commissioner  
John Aguilar, Commissioner  
Jackiey Gibson, Commissioner  
Frank Johnson, Commissioner

**Also Present:** Maria Godinez, Interim Executive Director  
Judy Maisonet, Director of Finance  
Meghan Turley, Occupancy Specialist

The Meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

#### AGENDA ITEMS COVERED

- Roll call
- Public Comments
- Hiring of Chief Financial Officer
- Executive Director Search
- Executive Session
- Adjournment

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments. 🌱

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Joe Grisson began the meeting by announcing that a couple positions, Occupancy Specialist and Property Manager, would be opening up due to employees leaving. 🌱

#### HIRING OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Chairman Grisson and Interim Executive Director Maria Godinez started on agenda items with the potential hiring of a Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The AHA has never had one, even though it is a \$17 million agency. Most of the Board opted not to make any big hiring decisions before hiring a new Executive Director, but they all agreed that it was absolutely necessary. Until that time, The AHA is looking at options such as continuing to lean on the current accounting firm for the agency in this manner or utilizing other third parties.



The Chairman stated that the agency is looking to hire an internal accountant instead of continuing use of its accounting firm for the purpose of inserting a check-and-balance system within the agency: hiring a CFO would mean both the CFO and Executive Director are working with the financials of the agency, instead of only one or the other. At the suggestion of Commissioner John Aguilar, the Board agreed to look over and update the current job description for the CFO prior to the new Executive Director coming in.

Maria Godinez let the Board know that part of the urgency in finding an accountant at least short-term is the need for a budget for the agency's new fiscal year, which started April 1. No one in the agency after the previous Executive Director left had the knowledge or expertise to put one together. The agency is also in need of assistance to complete the annual plan and the new strategic plan. This justified the cost for this new service, even for short-term solutions. The agency's current accountants, MADE Consulting, would be coming onsite in the coming weeks to assist The AHA with items related to the end of the fiscal year. 🌱

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH**

The Board began discussion on deciding to whom they would offer the Executive Director position. Previously, the Board had had a majority decision, but recently a Board Member had changed her mind, deadlocking the vote. Commissioner Jackie Gibson explained why she had changed her pick for the position. She said she wanted to make sure that this person had the experience to pull The AHA out of its troubled status, and one candidate had already been proven, as an Executive Director, to be able to pull this off, while the other had not. The Chairman agreed, stating he valued the knowledge of one candidate's abilities rather than the unproven, but relative sureness that the other candidate possessed the same capabilities.

As the Board continued discussion, the topic of compensation for the desired candidate came up. This factor was one of the main reasons why so many board members were reluctant to offer the position, since the salary would be near the top of HUD's allowed range. The Board went around to each member and had them state their thoughts on each candidate and clear up where they stood on their decision. Every member agreed that it would be a win-win situation whichever candidate they picked. Topics included potential salaries and other associated hiring costs, experience in turning around areas like The AHA's troubled areas, likely commitment to the Chicagoland area, and each candidate's unique positive and negative points.

The Board came to an informal decision and would move to take action on the decision at a later time. 🌱

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Meloyne Wimbley and seconded by Jackie Gibson to go into Executive Session. The Board entered Executive Session at 5:48 PM. 🌱

### **REGULAR MEETING (CONT'D)**

A motion was made by Meloyne Wimbley and seconded by John Aguilar to re-enter Regular Meeting. Regular Meeting continued at 6:20 PM.



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**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Meloyne Wimbley and seconded by John Aguilar to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Six ayes, zero nays.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM. 🌻