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November 24, 2020 8:35 A.M.
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Town of East Haven, CT
Housing Authority Special Meeting Minutes (Zoom)
November 23, 2020
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Members Present:

Chairwoman Natarajan
Vice-Chair Enders
Commissioner Sand
Commissioner Sagnella

Staff Present:

Michelle Benivegna, Exec. Director
Town Atty. Mike Luzzi

Others Present:

Richard Price
Seth Gellis
John Fraser

Chairwoman Natarajan called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Michelle Benivegna gave an update to the commission regarding the Woodview Apartments and the renovation project that would be occurring there. She has been in communication with the company that are doing the renovations as the residents there are extremely upset at the whole process of possibly taking on the financial responsibility to move while the renovations were taking place, not being guaranteed the same apartment and a few other things. Resident's there delivered a petition to the Mayor and Michelle and contacted other local representatives, that 96 out of 120 residents signed, and they requested the project not be done as they feel it isn't in their best interests.

On November 9, Director Benivegna sent a letter to Mr. Seth Gellis from CPP putting him on notice that she was calling a meeting to recommend to the commission to not act as an issuer of bonds for this project, with reasons and concerns noted in said letter with the concerns of the residents and members to rescind the offer to finance the project. Attorney Luzzi stated that the Housing Authority Commission gave permission to Michelle to act on behalf of the HA considering the project.

Chairwoman Natarajan stated that initially letters went out to the residents that there was some miscommunication and that the company CPP was going to change the wording. Director Benivegna said that a letter was sent from CPP giving more clarity with what was agreed upon; however, the tenants lost faith and didn't believe the company and had the outcry that they weren't being looked out for.

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Commissioner Sand asked why the letter that was sent to CPP wasn't forwarded to the commission. Director Benivegna said she would forward them to the commissioners and said that the Town will do everything they can to help these residents even if they weren't being the "bank" for the project. Chairwoman Natarajan asked who the other members on the meeting were. Director Benivegna informed Chairwoman who they were and because this was a public meeting anyone could attend, however Public Comment was not on the agenda, so they were just observing. She also asked Director Benivegna to send any correspondence on the matter to the commission.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 was made by Vice-Chair Enders and seconded by Commissioner Sand. All were in favor and none were opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna

Clerk