

NHLWAA
Board of Directors Meeting
Local Government Center
May 25, 2023

Board Members in Attendance: Todd Marsh, Pat Murphy, Ellen Tully, David Balian, Lynne Goodwin, Charleen Michaud, Trish Caruso, Karen Emis-Williams, BJ Parker, and Jim Bingham.

Minutes submitted by Karen Emis-Williams.

Board of Directors meeting called to order at 9:43 AM.

1. **Minutes for meeting 4/20/2023:** Motion to accept meeting minutes by Charleen and seconded by Ellen. All in favor - motion passed.

2. **Treasurer's Report** reviewed for March. Motion to approve the report made by Charleen and seconded by Ellen. All in favor, motion approved.
Motion to accept April was made by Ellen and seconded by Lynne. All in favor - motion passed.

3. **Executive Board of Directors**
 - a. **Board**
 - I. **President's Report:** Todd working with Lynne and Dee on a membership survey, which was sent out.
 - II. **Website update:** The website was updated but is missing some minutes. The NHHFA rental rate documents were updated from 2021 to 2022, and 2023 will be out soon. The website has been helpful for many welfare officials.
The Welfare Ad Hoc Committee is working with NHMA to update slides for the Art of Welfare presentation.
Training Committee working on scenarios. Kudos to Charleen for her great ideas.
SB110- Should be going to the House Floor in early June. Website created with information on who to contact in your community. The focus is on Republicans as 10-15 republican votes are needed to have a chance at this bill passing. The boards assistance is needed in this effort.
Charleen has drafted her own letter and will send it out a couple days in advance of the hearing. A call from each community will be more effective in helping this pass.
Senator Shaheen hosted a panel discussion on the Debt Ceiling and the local impact it would have on services, tax payers, people in need, SNAP, work requirement, etc. There was more press than people at the round table. NHLA was present and it was held at NH Hunger Solutions.

III. SSI Income Resource discussion: Charleen reports she had communication with NHLA and NHMA about counting a child's SSI as household income. A child's SS benefit cannot be used for the exclusive benefit of somebody else in the household. It can be used for rent and utilities. NHLA is waiting for a municipality to do this to file legal action.

Ellen – it is difficult to distinguish on how to use the SSI.

Pat- people have asked why the child's SS is being counted. Ask them what they are using it for and will realize they use it for something else.

Todd – people need to be reasonable on how the benefit is used.

This topic needs to be discussed at the June 15th conference.

IV. Welfare Assessment update – the Governor's Housing and Stability Committee will hold off on reviewing RSA 165 until after the hearing of SB 110. If it passes, it will be beneficial with our conversations with this committee. The approach will be to work on it together and acknowledge the challenges.

Charleen – focus on the things we are doing because in general public hear what we are not doing.

Trish – it is also important to keep and show data on the things we are doing.

BJ – is working with her community partners to keep track of data, which will help with grants.

Pat – the concern is that SB110 is being looked at as welfare reform. It actually started as the Good Neighbor Agreement in the 90's and the name changed to the Ethics Agreement. We have always been trying to work with other communities. People do not understand Local Welfare and want us to resolve the problem. Welfare is not responsible for the housing crisis. There are communities that are not working responsibly.

Todd: SB110 would make the Ethics Agreement into law. At the Governor's Housing Stability meeting, Bob has taken the approach of looking at it as an assessment instead of a reform.

b. Committee Reports:

I. Legislative Affairs:

SB110 - David wrote a letter to the legislators to help them understand we were not behind making this law but to support this bill. The letter focused on the "Local Welfare Purpose" and not defining residency. Also focused on the cost savings for the communities that have hospitals, jails, hotels, etc.

Todd -if this bill does not pass there is a possibility for it to be re-introduced with items that are not favorable. We currently have the support of NHLA and without the support others would oppose this bill.

BJ – is covering seventeen other towns, and workers should be able to bill for their time. The concern with SB110 is what will happen because other towns do

not do their jobs. David also covers for other communities.

Todd –if it passes it will help smaller towns.

BJ – smaller towns are not fulltime, and she will have to do it.

Ellen – suggested to BJ to do an M.O.U. and charge them a fee for covering.

Medicaid Expansion:

Pat – it was referred to the House Committee and it is being retained until September. It is not in the budget and it is unclear as to why.

II. Survey Ad Hoc: Lynne – the survey went out but unable to see the results. She would need editor's rights.

Todd- 37 responses have been received and the survey ends on 5/31. People want the board to be more engaged, approachable, know who to reach out to, training suggestions, etc.

Lynne- did not receive the survey. Charleen and Jim did not either. Ellen's went to her personal account. Todd will send it to them.

Lynne – asked if Dee was paid extra to do this.

Todd- it does not look like it but will confirm.

III. NHMA Art of Welfare Guide: Pat asked NHMA to remove the “Dumping Agreement” out of the slides and booklet.

Charleen – NHMA wrote an article on RSA 165:19 Liability to Support and stated to assist and send for reimbursement. The law reads differently. It is better to contact the relative before assisting.

IV. Nomination Committee: Pat- Sarah and Amber have resigned. We have twelve members and asked if the board wants to fill those vacancies.

BJ – the Town of Tamworth is interested.

Todd – will make an announcement during the general membership to see if there are any interests. It would be great to have smaller town representation.

Charleen – agrees with making the announcement at the meeting, especially making an emphasis on smaller towns. Communicate the expectations and be clear it's a working board. Motion for Todd to bring this up at the June conference by Pat and seconded by BJ. All in Favor.

c. Future Conferences/Meetings/Training:

I. September General meeting: Todd - working with Natalie.

II. November Conference: Todd – need to focus on being proactive when doing this conference.

4. Other/General Discussion:

BJ – NHLA is hosting tester classes for their Fair Housing Law project, and the tester can get paid \$18/hr. NHLA will be working with her to do this training with her. Perhaps this could be a training idea for September or November

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:10AM