

**ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY
July 22, 2020
675 WEST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611**



MEMBERS PRESENT

Tynise Edwards, Chairperson
Rosalie Remarais, Vice-Chairperson
Florine Cummings, Resident Commissioner
Joanne Larson, Commissioner
Hershel Patterson, Resident Commissioner
Hank Rubin, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Melissa Berrien
Shawn Burr
Sinclair Carrington
Diana Colon
Jacquetta Harris
Cynthia Herriott
Shawanna Lawrence
Mark Plantholt
Mariam Rodriguez-Machuca
Linda Stango
Amit Sud
Evhen Tupis

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Todd Bullard, RHA Legal Counsel
Josh Jensen, Tipping Point Communications

Commissioner Tynise Edwards called the July Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:04 PM. It was noted for the record that notice of this meeting was posted as required by law and that there was a quorum present.

1. Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

2. Approval of Minutes: June 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Remarais moved, and Commissioner Rubin seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Remarais, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Edwards, and Commissioner Rubin voted yes. The motion passed.

3. Director's Report and Board Approval Requests

a. Deputy Executive Director, Shawn Burr, presented his Director's report as follows:

Mr. Burr recognized the Staff across the Authority who continue to go above and beyond to ensure our high quality of services are maintained and that our residents and participants needs are taken care of during this pandemic emergency we are experiencing. They have been doing a remarkable job! Directors are busy preparing plans for their departments to "Re-open," and a committee has been formed.

Mr. Burr shared that Trillium's COVID testing for our residents continues and has been very successful. We are scheduling a debriefing to discuss progress and next steps. We had very positive press stories about the testing services for our residents, and he hopes that you had a chance to see them via the links he shared.

Mr. Burr shared that we are moving forward with the NYS POP grant we were awarded and have selected a consultant to work with. A scope of work has been created and submitted to Enterprise for approval.

Mr. Burr shared that our "Reopening Committee" has been very busy developing plans for RHA to "reopen" in phases which is underway. We are evaluating the processes that are in place on a weekly basis within the current phase. The next phase will implement temperature checks as part of our daily screening process. Continued kudos to Shawanna for taking the lead on this and the countless hours she has put in, not only organizing the plans, but also attending webinars, meetings, and calls to gather best practices.

Mr. Burr reported we are reviewing Fiscal Year 2021 Budget proposals from the President and appropriation committees. NAHRO provides analysis on this every year, and it's important that we are aware of what is being proposed and how the funding could affect our operations.

Mr. Burr reported that PIH Notices that HUD has issued covering the pandemic revised the funding eligibility period to be 3/27/20 – 12/31/20. NYSPHADA and others are still trying to get pre-3/27 COVID related costs covered with these funds. The RHA/BOC team has met once to discuss the eligible uses, has a second meeting scheduled. This is a great opportunity to get creative with this funding in providing much-needed resources for our residents and participants. Since the first meeting, we have implemented a landlord incentive program which I sent out information on, and we've procured face masks for residents and are working on distributing them. Other conversations and planning are in progress for meals, transportation, resident surveys, etc.

Mr. Burr reported that we met with RTS on 6/26 to discuss transportation issues and opportunities for our residents. It was a very productive meeting and the start of a continued partnership between our organizations. Thank you to Commissioner Rubin for initiating this. Our next meeting is scheduled for 7/23, and I will have more to report next month.