

BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

December 11, 2023

10:00 A.M.

All Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Louie Berbert
Claudia Cotton
Susan Dewey
Sean Farrell
Sylvia Hallock
Abigail Johnson
Keith Johnson
Roger Jones
J.M. Snell
Scott Stosser

Members Absent

Lynne Goldberg
Richard Gregory
Larry Murphy
Mark Trostle

Call to Order

Mr. Louie Berbert, Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:00 am.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Chase Sawyer of the Department of Housing and Community Development Policy Office. Mr. Sawyer reported that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Mr. Berbert opened the floor for comment.

No public comments were made, and Mr. Berbert closed public comment.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023, meeting of the Board; the motion passed on a voice vote.

Enterprise Zone Grant Program Proposed Regulatory Action

Mr. Sawyer presented proposed regulatory activity related to the Enterprise Zone Grant Program (13VAC5-113). The proposed action would increase the threshold for which a Job Creation Grant applicant is required to have a CPA attestation with their grant application. Current regulations require CPA attestation for applicants creating more than 25 jobs. The proposed change would increase the threshold to 40 jobs, reducing the regulatory burden for smaller businesses. This proposal is part of the regulatory reduction efforts in line with Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 19. A motion was properly made and seconded to approve

the proposed amendment to 13VAC5-112-290 of the Virginia Administrative Code. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Private Activity Bond
Update

Mr. Sawyer provided an update on Private Activity Bonds (PABs). He noted the 2024 program year will start in January, and the program guidelines remain unchanged from the 2023 program year. He also noted the PAB program guidelines revision process is still underway and new program guidelines will likely be in effect for the 2025 program year.

Agritourism Event
Structure Technical
Advisory Committee
(AGTAC) Update

Mr. Sawyer updated the Board on actions taken by the AGTAC Committee. At the October 16 Board meeting, Mr. Sawyer reported on the Committee's findings and recommendations following its four meetings held in 2023. Mr. Sawyer informed the Board that the final written documents of the Committee will be published on the DHCD website. These documents include a final memo, best practices document, and supplement letters from stakeholders.

Mr. Keith Johnson made comments regarding the memo from the Virginia Fire Services Board. Mr. Johnson recommended that the Committee reconvene to consider further recommendations.

The Board discussed the recommendations of the Committee, the continuation of the Committee, and the Board's regulatory authority over agritourism facilities.

Mr. Berbert directed Mr. Johnson to prepare a written proposal for the Board to consider regarding the continuation and goals of the AGTAC Committee.

Regulatory and Legislative
Update

Mr. Bryan Horn, DHCD Director, provided an update that the Governor approved all four chapters of the building code regulations (VADR, SFPC, USBC, and IBSR) which have an effective date of January 18, 2024. Mr. Horn provided an update on the upcoming legislative session including agency guidance regarding the conduct of board members on legislative matters.

Mr. Farrell thanked DHCD staff including Ms. Cindy Davis, Mr. Jeff Brown, and their team for another successful code development cycle.

Resolutions to Commend
Board Members

Mr. Berbert announced two commending resolutions for former board members, Mr. Brett Meringoff and Ms. Patty Shields. A

motion was properly made and seconded to approve these resolutions. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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| Virginia Housing Report | Ms. Susan Dewey, CEO of Virginia Housing, reported on Virginia Housing's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, announced an extension of financing with taxable bonds, and highlighted the recent housing and economic development report produced by Chmura. |
| VFSB Report | Mr. Snell reported on recent and upcoming meetings of the Fire Services Board. |
| Report of the Director | Mr. Horn thanked Ms. Susan Dewey for her service on the Board and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement. |
| Unfinished Business | There was no unfinished business to be discussed. |
| New Business | There was no new business to be discussed. |
| Board Matters | Mr. Sawyer updated the Board on the Conflict of Interest Act requirements, including Board members' submitting new financial disclosure statements in 2024.

Ms. Cindy Davis updated the Board on digital access to ICC codes and documents. |
| Future Meetings | The next meeting of the Board will be January 8, 2024. |
| Adjournment | Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned. |