



**Kalamazoo County
Public Housing Commission**

**Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2021**

Commission Members Present: David Anderson, LaToya Haywood, Gwendolyn Hooker, and Evelyn Thompson

Commission Members Absent: Patrese Griffin

Kalamazoo County Commissioners Present: Tami Rey

LHAF Millage Monitor and Recording Secretary Present: Lisa Willcutt

Anderson moved to excuse Griffin and Haywood (Haywood later joined).

Motion to by Anderson

Support by Hooker

Anderson – Yes

Hooker – Yes

Thompson – Yes

Motion Approved

Anderson moved to waive the special meeting notice required by the KCPHC's bylaws and instead comply with the Open Meetings Act which requires 18 hours' notice of a meeting, for which such notice was given.

Motion to by Anderson

Support by Hooker

Anderson – Yes

Hooker – Yes

Thompson – Yes

Motion Approved

Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting was called to order on Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84572422950?pwd=d3B6ejlBUmJZRUXVR0dmZ255TEF1Zz09>) by Thompson at 4:04 pm.

Motion to approve meeting agenda by Anderson

Support by Hooker

Anderson – Yes

Hooker – Yes

Thompson – Yes

Motion Approved



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Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Mary Balkema, Housing Director for Kalamazoo County, stated that she received advice from the Kalamazoo County attorney regarding uses of 2015 Millage funds by the KCPHC. She stated that direct housing assistance or support that is consistent with the workplan that expires December 31, 2021, and that specifically assists families with school age children, is allowed. She went on to note that any funding must be issued before December 31, 2021. After the workplan expires no 2015 Millage funds can be disbursed until a new workplan is in place and approved by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

Discuss Assistance for Fox Ridge Residents Displaced by Fire

Hooker informed the group that there are approximately 30 displaced families with at least 20 households with school aged children. Until Fox Ridge can find placements for the families, such as another unit at the property or their current unit) the families need somewhere to go for two weeks. The idea is to place families in hotels until then. She went on to say that the cost is estimated at \$700 per week per family. Currently there are seven families that need this assistance, so the total expenditure would be around \$10,000.

Anderson stated that, given the information provided by Balkema, assistance may be limited by the number of days remaining in the year as two weeks from today would extend past December 31, 2021.

Hooker asked if two weeks could be paid for, and Balkema stated that the check has to be cut in 2021. She went on to say that the \$9,800 can cover services into the next year, as long as the check is issued in this year; Balkema does not think it matters if the funds cover services into 2022.

Thompson asked how the two week stay period was determined. Hooker explained that this is the number of weeks that Fox Ridge stated they would need in order to determine where each household was going to be rehoused. She went on to say that Fox Ridge will either move residents back into their current unit, transfer them to a different unit at the property or move them to a sister property.

Anderson pointed out that if the funding is issued to HOPE thru Navigation, then Hooker will have to abstain from voting (recording secretary note: at this point in the meeting Haywood had not yet joined the meeting) because a quorum would not be present. Anderson stated that maybe Willcutt's office could cut the checks to the hotels. Hooker proposed that the check could be cut to the Northside Ministerial Alliance (NMA) since that is where donations are going to. Anderson stated that government dollars cannot be a donation, so there would have to be a work around, maybe issuing the funds and restricting them for hotel lodging for the fire victims only? Balkema stated that there is no real work around. Thompson stated that Willcutt noted in the chat that Lockhart Management & Consulting can cut the checks. Hooker expressed concern that a hotel would accept a check for payment. Thompson stated that her organization, Ministry with Community, issues checks to hotels routinely as they are housing those with COVID-19 in hotels.



Haywood had joined the meeting and asked for clarification about the NMA's involvement and paying the hotels directly. Thompson clarified that if the hotels are paid directly there would not be any NMA involvement.

Hooker noted that she could abstain from voting and a quorum would still be available. She asked what the motion needed to state.

Haywood asked for a review of the events that lead to this discussion. Thompson provided a summary. Haywood then motioned for seven Fox Ridge families to be housed in motels at \$700 per week for two weeks and that those funds be paid directly to the hotel they are staying at. Anderson seconded the motion. After discussion on the motion, it was determined that key requirements were missing. Haywood withdrew the motion.

Haywood motioned for Willcutt to cut checks tomorrow for seven Fox Ridge families with school aged children who were victims of the fire to be housed in motels at a cost of \$1,400 per family (\$700 per week) and to be paid from the original Millage funds consistent with the Workplan.

*Motion by Haywood
Support by Anderson*

*Anderson – Yes
Haywood – Yes
Hooker – Yes
Thompson – Yes*

Motion Approved

Public Comment on Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items

None

Commissioner Member Comments

Anderson thanked Vice Chair Rey and Hooker for bringing this to the Commission in a quick fashion to bring assistance to these families.

Haywood reiterated Anderson's comments and thanked all her colleagues and having the heart to help these families.

Thompson appreciates Vice Chair Rey giving her a call and let everyone know that if they ever need her to call her cell phone. She thanked everyone for looking after our community and to let the Commission know if there is ever a need that can be addressed that they can help with, either as a Commission member or a community member.



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Public Housing Commission**

Hooker thanked everyone for making this a priority and being expeditious.

Thompson also thanked Balkema for her advice and input.

Submitted by: Lisa Willcutt

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.