

Ellington Housing Authority
Regular Meeting
March 26, 2024

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ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK

- 1) Meeting called to order @ 6:01.
- 2) Members present: Debi Newton, Joe Ryan, Charlie Sandberg and Mike Swanson. Also present: Ibeth Almario and Lori Spielman, 1st Selectman. Absent: Dennis Varney.
- 3) The minutes of the January 30th meeting were reviewed. Mike approved the minutes, 2nd by Debi. Motion passed.
- 4) Public forum: Lori Spielman recently went to Stafford to check out their senior housing development plans. Stafford was quite accommodating sharing their blueprint copies for Lori to review. Naek Construction (in Vernon, Ct) is the builder. They haven't broken ground yet. There will be 1 bedroom vs 2 bedroom units, even though there is not a big demand for 2 bedrooms. The living rooms are a little bigger than what the residents currently have here now. Some people have 1 bedroom with a pull-out couch in the living room in case there is a need for an aide to stay with them. The 1st floor has 15 units, the 2nd floor has 21 units and the 3rd floor has 22 units. There are elevators, storage on each wing and laundry rooms on each wing. This was approved about 2 years ago and the town got grants for most of this development. It's also close to the post office, library, and restaurants. Fourteen acres of property on Maple Street in town was recently purchased with plans to use it for senior housing. The farmers market will be close to the new senior housing in town. Currently Snipsic Village has 75 people on their list looking for senior housing and there were about 25 more applications which have not yet been processed. Lori said the town is looking for grant money since this will cost about \$28,000,000.00. Lori stated the Snipsic Village can also ask for grant money. Charlie asked about infrastructure for needs: gas, sewer and water. Everything is very close. Sandy (unit #11) asked when the limb that fell off the tree will be removed. Mike stated Public Works will take care of the tree limb and help with upkeep and maintenance. He and Tom will do a walk through within 2 weeks to see what is needed. Sandy was concerned also about always seeing a different maintenance man for repairs. Ibeth explained they are all part time so this will continue. They all wear a uniform with "Millenium" on it to identify themselves. Charlie said if you question who they are, do not open your door, don't let them in. Debi asked if they could also get mulch. It is being looked into.
- 5) Financial: no problems. Charlie and Mike recently went to the Selectmen's meeting to discuss the Pilot Program which goes back to the sixties or seventies, when Snipsic Village was built. The housing authorities were required or asked to contribute 10% of its revenue to the town in exchange for taxes, sewer use, plowing among other things. The town has never enforced it, mostly because the housing authority cannot afford it. Charlie and Mike made a presentation to the selectmen and said the revenue last year

was about \$ 250,000.00. At the end of last year there was \$ 13,000.00 left over. The selectmen voted to forgive a past amount that may be due from that date two weeks ago. Also going forward 5 years, they will not collect any money from the pilot program. Lori also supported this choice.

6) Maintenance: nothing.

7) New business: nothing.

8) Old Business: Charlie is encouraging the residents to pay their rents through their bank by ACH payments. It makes it easier for the residents since they don't have to write checks. It's less time consuming for the people who have to run them to the bank, deposit and process them. It saves time. Going forward any new residents coming in will be instructed to sign up for this ACH payment program.

9) Meeting adjourned @ 6:24. The next meet is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30th @ 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Gessay, Recording Secretary