

## **Board of Selectmen**

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Town Hall Mayflower Room, \*7:00 PM\*

**7:00 pm** Discussion:

Plymouth Housing Authority

Chairman Tavares spoke at length about his frustration with the lack of response from the Plymouth Housing Authority regarding possible resolutions for the Housing residents who are in discomfort or in danger from the lack of air conditioning in their units. He gave an overview of the meetings and correspondence regarding this air conditioning issue, and said that the top priority was the public safety of the elderly residents. He expressed frustration that the Housing Authority chose not to join the Selectmen at the meeting, and that there appeared to be no follow up or compliance with accepting the Town's offer of assistance from the last joint public meeting that the Selectmen had with the Housing Authority last week. He acknowledged that he had visited Castle Court with Mr. Buechs and heard from residents there that there were electrical issues that made it nearly impossible to plug in multiple appliances at a time. He thanked Mr. Buechs and Mr. Leyden, as well as the multiple donators, for their work acquiring air conditioning units for these people. He stated that he only wished they could be installed in Castle Court to provide some relief to the people.

Mr. Malaguti agreed with all these sentiments and stated that he was disappointed that the Housing Authority did not take immediate steps to accept and install the air conditioning units offered by generous people and coordinated by Mr. Buechs and Mr. Leyden. He also explained that the long term solution of the "sleeves" that the Housing Authority indicated that they were slowly installing was not going to result in satisfaction for the residents.

Mr. Provenzano stated that he agreed with Chairman Tavares that the Selectmen were overstepping their authority, he would not apologize for that since it was Plymouth residents who were expressing their discomfort in their apartments, their fear of repercussions from their complaints, and their unsafe living conditions.

Mr. Page stated that he was baffled by the lack of immediate response and action by the Housing Authority after the last joint meeting with the Selectmen and he found it inexcusable.

Mr. Tavares requested that staff send a letter to the Housing Authority immediately that stated that Town Officials would be willing to meet with the Housing Authority and any State or Federal officials to help rectify this health and welfare situation for the Town's elders. He also asked that the letter request the Housing Authority provide an explanation to the Selectmen of the electrical system issues at Castle Court that prevent air conditioning units from being installed in the windows.

Chairman Tavares then opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Steve Leyden profusely thanked the Board members for their efforts. He said that the Housing Authority does not seem to be helping the suffering of their constituents and that would be in direct opposition to their charge.

Mr. Russ Shirley stated the he has done some research and discovered that the Plymouth Housing Authority (PHA) appears to be in continuous violation of the Open Meeting Law. There are no meeting minutes, thus there is no transparency. He stated that every committee he has served on welcomes the public and their input. That does not appear to be the case with the PHA. He will make a formal request to the PHA for copies of their meeting notes and minutes and he has also pulled papers to run for the PHA. He stated that even though the PHA members are good people, the Authority as a whole is dysfunctional. He indicated that if he is not able to obtain the minutes, he will file a formal complaint with the Attorney General's Office.

Mr. Ken Buechs personally thanked Mr. Tavares for his extensive work on this issue. He stated that he wants the community to know that Mr. Tavares stepped up to the plate and he is proud of him for those efforts.

Chairman Tavares then moved on to other issues.

Mr. Malaguti wanted to know if the busses operated by First Student for our school system are registered in Plymouth and pay excise taxes here. He also stated that he had a complaint about the lack of restroom facilities at Stephen's Field and asked if we are leasing out Stephen's Fields for events and, if so, are we informing renters that the public restrooms at that site are closed? Are we providing portajohns instead?

On a motion by Mr. Provenzano, seconded by Mr. Malaguti, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:50 pm.

Other Business:

*May include topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting.*

**Agenda Item**

Tuesday, 8/11/2015

Discussion:

**SUMMARY:**

Plymouth Housing Authority

**BACKGROUND:**

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Other Business:

**SUMMARY:**

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**BACKGROUND:**