

MARSHFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY
17 TEA ROCK GARDENS
MARSHFIELD, MA 02050
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING, May 22, 2024, 5:00PM

A Special Meeting of the Marshfield Housing Authority Board of Commissioners was held on May 22, 2024. Commissioner Richardson announced that the meeting was being videotaped and recorded. Upon a call of the roll, the following Commissioners were found Present and Absent:

Present

Kerry Richardson
Cecilia Delgadillo-Calbimonte
John Daley
Helen Bennett

Absent

Joseph Pecevich

Discussion of complaints against Marshfield Housing Authority Commissioner Pecevich and potential vote to recommend to the Board of Select, Town of Marshfield, MA to seek removal of Commissioner Pecevich as an elected Commissioner of the Marshfield Housing Authority.

Mr. Marathas opened the discussion by reading a letter he proposed for the Marshfield Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to the Town of Marshfield Select Board requesting to be placed on the Select Board agenda for a vote to remove Commissioner Pecevich from the Marshfield Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Daley commented that the exhibits in the Town of Marshfield letter speak for themselves.

Commissioner Bennett commented on Commissioner Pecevich's latest podcast that he claimed to be ambushed at the regular board meeting and that he has total lack of respect for the residents.

Commissioner Delgadillo stated that she is shocked to be here and how the environment of the meetings is 100% different than when she began. It pains her to see tenants not living in comfort like they were a year ago.

Commissioner Richardson opened up the discussion to the public.

Florence Sargent, Tenant read the Oath of Office that Commissioner Pecevich took to "faithfully and impartially...with no axe to grind". Mr. Pecevich has dishonored his oath.

Connie Hillman, Tenant, commented that Commissioner Pecevich hides behind "free speech" but the definition of Free Speech doesn't allow defamation of staff, Executive Director, other Board members and residents.

Robin Dunn, Tenant, thanked the board for taking them seriously.

Laurie Sweeney, Marshfield Resident, read the code of ethics that includes Board Members should serve with integrity and ethically and safeguard good will.

Commissioner Richardson indicated for the record that the Agenda to this meeting was delivered and posted within the 48 hour notice and it is unfortunate that Commissioner Pecevich did not attend.

Commissioner Richardson read into the minutes the following statement that was to be directed to Commissioner Pecevich:

Commissioner Pecevich -

After hearing the discussion of the Board of Commissioners - these are my thoughts:

In reference to your action after our BOC Meeting last week, two scenarios are plausible and neither one of them are attractive.

1) As you were leaving the property of the MHA after our BOC Meeting on May 13th either the vulgar gesture you made towards several Residents was trivial pettiness and ought to be beneath the dignity of an Elected Commissioner or

2) It was intended as a meaningful vulgar symbolism in which case it is a real problem.

In reference to your tenure on the BOC of the MHA:

Overall, I believe you have sought to disrupt the operations of the MHA and the QHA as our Managing Agency, and have attempted on occasions to dominate our BOC Meetings rather than engage and debate in a respectable manner. Disrespect cannot have a place within the MHA operations. It is unfortunate that our discussion this evening may further exacerbate the MHA's already febrile climate. I think your comments on your Podcast and Social Media are misguided, incorrect and disrespectful towards the Residents of the MHA, the Employees of the QHA, the ED of the MHA and some Members of the BOC of the MHA and this gives me great concern. I request that you stop spreading incorrect information on Social Media and your Podcasts. Hateful rhetoric leads to hateful actions.

When combined with earlier acts you have demonstrated about the MHA at BOC Meetings, on Social Media, on your own Podcasts and in other situations, these acts amplify the need for the BOC to impose enforcement on a Commissioner who steadfastly refuses to police himself.

What is the right thing to do considering we as a BOC have a Fiduciary Responsibility to the MHA and the Residents of the MHA? If we do not take action about your conduct, we as a BOC are not fulfilling our Fiduciary responsibilities for the MHA. You have previously been offered on several occasions the opportunity to meet with the ED and you have not taken advantage of these opportunities. At our last BOC Meeting, I asked you to meet with myself and the ED - initially you said yes but you could not meet after our Meeting. At that Meeting, I asked you to let me know by the end of last week when you could meet with us. To date, I have not heard from you.

Prior to your election as a Member of the BOC of the MHA and also during your tenure as a Commissioner of the Board of the MHA you have said it is your desire and objective to serve the Residents who occupy the premises of the MHA. I believe that is your desire and were your intentions.

Unfortunately your intentions have not born any fruit and the opposite has occurred during your tenure as a Commissioner of the MHA.

Your actions have:

- Alienated the Tenants*
- Compromised your position with the ED of the MHA*
- Caused Commissioners of the BOC of the MHA to feel uncomfortable and concerned for their safety and well being*
- Included untruths on Social Media and your Podcasts about the operations of the MHA*

- *Made employees of the QHA, which is the Managing Agent of the MHA, uncomfortable and concerned for their safety*
- *Humiliated the ED of the MHA*
- *Caused residents of the MHA properties to be concerned for their safety - when it is our obligation to protect their safety*

The Public and the Tenants in Affordable Housing must have trust in the Leadership of those who have been given the responsibility to be Commissioners of the Housing Authorities throughout the State. This trust is essential to the operations of a Housing Authority. Officials who violate that trust against those they represent must be held accountable.

If you Commissioner Pecevich, want to make negative comments about the Residents of the MHA, employees of the QHA, the ED of the MHA and/or the Commissioners of the MHA then you should do so as a Citizen, but not when you as a Citizen are also a Commissioner of the MHA.

It is for these reasons that I make the following Motion:

Motion to adopt and approve the written complaint dated May 22, 2024 by James Marathas, Executive Director of the Marshfield Housing Authority and Executive Director of the Quincy Housing Authority which is the Managing Agency of the Marshfield Housing Authority, and to also seek and recommend removal of Commissioner Pecevich from the Board of Commissioners of the Marshfield Housing Authority by the Select Board, Town of Marshfield, MA under M.G.L. c. 121B, s. 6.

Do I have a 2nd?"

Commissioner Richardson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Delgadillo to adopt and approve the written complaint dated May 22, 2024 by James Marathas, Executive Director of the Marshfield Housing Authority and Executive Director of the Quincy Housing Authority which is the Managing Agency of the Marshfield Housing Authority, and to also seek and recommend removal of Commissioner Pecevich from the Board of Commissioners of the Marshfield Housing Authority by the Select Board, Town of Marshfield, MA under M.G.L. c. 121B, s. 6. Upon a call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Bennett made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Delgadillo to adjourn the meeting at 5:35pm.