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*State Representative:* Chaz Sexton-Diranian (2022)

*Chairman:* Laura E. Shifrin (2021)

*Clerk:* Natalie Call (2024)

*Vice Chairman:* Courtney Borelli (2023)

*Tenant Seat:* Vacancy (2024)

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## MINUTES

Thursday January 28, 2021

Via ZOOM 6:30PM

**THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**  
**TOWNSEND HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
**JOINT MEETING WITH**  
**THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**TOWNSEND AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST**  
**WORTHY FUND**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88442433245?pwd=Z0JEdEY3WUpGMXo3UkJHeGJvSUV1dz09>

Meeting ID: 884 4243 3245

Passcode: 767929

One tap mobile

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### Preliminaries:

1.1 Meeting called to order at 6:32PM

1.2 Roll Call showed Board of Selectmen (BOS) Chairman Wayne Miller (WM), BOS Vice Chairman, Veronica Kell (VK), BOS Clerk Joe Shank (Joe S.), Housing Authority Chairman Laura Shifrin (LS), State Rep Chaz Sexton-Diranian, (CSD),



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Housing Authority Clerk Natalie Call (NC) , Town Administrator Jim Kreidler (JK), Chairman of the Housing Trust Joan Savoy (Joan S.) Housing Trust member Mike Virostko (MV) and Worthy Fund Member Renee Fossy (RF) present.

**Work Session:**

**2.1 Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Townsend Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Worthy Fund DISCUSSION-**

a) coordination requests for assistance-VK explained that she requested this meeting because of an experience with two (Worthy Fund) applicants at the end of December; there are various funds available and VK thinks that there should be a flow chart to signify where the applications should be sent (Worthy Funds, Housing Affordable Trust, Housing, etc.) and who should be contacted for each. VK also pointed out that as a town resident she was unaware that these funds existed at all. VK also asked for clarification on what exactly the Worthy Funds are. RF explained that she is a member of the Abram French Fund which consists of an amount of money that was left to the Town, the interest of which was to be used to help the “worthy” poor; people who needed help through no fault of their own, perhaps falling on bad times. There are also two other funds that the Board of Selectman administer that are similar. The distribution of these funds is highly confidential. RF went on to explain that there is not a whole lot of money left in these funds, but it is used as a one-time payout for rent, fuel, bills etc. CSD thanked RF for all her hard work overseeing this endeavor. Discussed point of contact for the Worth Fund (Selectmen’s Office), as well as a decision tree as to where the call/resident should be sent -Housing, Trust Fund, Worthy Fund-depending on the need and urgency.

b) review of requirements for each program. CARES Act money (Trust Fund) can be used for housing or fuel. Any other request will be made of the Worthy Fund. This may need to be readdressed when COVID money is spent/no longer available.

c) initial correspondence will follow the flow chart that VK is working on to present on Tuesdays BOS meeting

d) correspondence to applicant for each program -See above.

e) CDBG- (e.g., Fuel Assistance) Discussed how residents in need get fuel assistance. Community Opportunities Group (COG) is in charge of the distribution of the monies. Concern regarding the expediting of the funds as the grant is set to run out the end of April 2021. JK stated that this will most likely be extended as most of these



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grants have been due to the pandemic. Discussed advertising to get the work out to residents that this money is available. Joe S suggested utilizing the highway signs for marketing purposes.

Discussion ended at 7:48PM