

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY OF AUSTIN, MINNESOTA**

May 31, 2002

A special meeting of the Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Austin, Minnesota was held at 9:00 AM, May 31, 2002, at the HRA Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lang. Present were Commissioners Chaffee, Jorgenson, and Nordin. Also present were Executive Director Mahan, Deputy Director of Community Development Smith, and Attorney John Beckmann. Commissioner Nelson was absent.

HOUSING:

Salary Survey Update. Director Mahan reported that the HRA salary survey by Pat Wamser and Associates is complete in a draft form. An HRA committee of Commissioners Chaffee and Jorgenson will meet to review the report before the final draft is presented to the Board.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

APEX Study. Director Mahan presented a request from the education committee of APEX for assistance in financing a study to determine the types of training and education that could be offered to the minority and immigrant population in Austin. The study will cost approximately \$14,000. The HRA has a growing number of minorities of various ethnic backgrounds in the housing programs. An effective education program could be of significant long term benefit to the HRA.

It was moved by Commissioner Jorgenson and seconded by Commissioner Nordin to authorize a contribution of \$3,550 to the APEX education study. All present voted in favor thereof, none in opposition thereto. The Chairman declared the motion passed and carried.

**Railroad Project: Awarding of Bid for Soil
Decontamination - Final Award.** Central Soils Remediation submitted a challenge to the award of the Railroad Pollution Cleanup grant. Central Soils was the second low bidder on the project with a bid \$825 higher than the bid from Carl Bolander and Sons. They challenged the conditional contract award on the basis of claimed bidding irregularities and their assertion that thermal treatment eliminated long term liability for the City of Austin.

John Beckmann of the Hoversten Law Office researched the claims of Central Soils Remediation and found them to be groundless. He wrote a detailed legal opinion on the issues and explained his conclusions to the Board (see attached). Mr. Beckmann could see no legal basis for awarding the contract to anyone except the low bidder, Carl Bolander and Sons.

It was moved by Commissioner Nordin and seconded by Commissioner Jorgenson to make the final award of the contract for contaminated soils cleanup on the railroad yard property to Carl Bolander and Sons for their bid of \$364,925. All present voted in favor thereof, none in opposition thereto. The Chairman declared the motion passed and carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business it was moved by Commissioner Lang and seconded by Commissioner Jorgenson to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor thereof, none in opposition thereto. The Chairman declared the motion passed and carried.

Richard Lang, Chairman

SEAL

Mickey Jorgenson, Secretary/Treasurer