

**COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
FEBRUARY 27, 2018 AT 6:00 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members:

Attending: Chair Joanne Campbell, Alderman Michael Anderson,
Alderman Michael Concannon.

Non-Voting Members:

Attending: Alderman Richard Gately,
Alderman Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen, President Richard Haggerty,
Alderman Edward Tedesco. Absent: Mark Gaffney

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On the appointment of Thomas C. Quinn, 6 Newbridge Avenue, to the Woburn Housing Authority, with a term to expire on March 31, 2023: Mr. Quinn said he served on the WHA board from 2002-05 and said he feels the WHA is an important part of the community. Mr. Quinn said he has read the Housing Production Plan report written in 2016 in anticipation of his appointment to the Board. He said the WHA controls about 1,150 units in the city and about 3.5-4 percent are currently vacant. Mr. Quinn noted veterans get the first priority for public housing, followed by widows of veterans followed by Woburn residents. Alderman Anderson said he is aware of creative financing for public housing in Malden and said he would like to put Mr. Quinn in contact with housing officials in that city. Mr. Quinn said the Housing Production Plan was an important step for the city. Alderman Concannon said the goal of the Housing Production Plan was to reach safe harbor and prevent the filing of comprehensive permits under state law Ch. 40B. Alderman Gately asked if applicants for public housing must go through Criminal Record Offender Information and other background checks. Mr. Quinn replied they do. Alderman Gately asked who the WHA contacts in case there is trouble at a public housing project. Mr. Quinn said the WHA contacts the Woburn Police Dept. and that he believes Capt. John Murphy is the primary contact person at Woburn PD. Alderman Gately said he is sure Mr. Quinn will do a good job on the WHA board. President Haggerty said the city is sitting on an account containing about \$3 million for affordable housing and said he would welcome ideas from Mr. Quinn and the WHA board about how that money can best be used. Mr. Quinn said he thinks the last time the WHA was involved in the creation of housing was the Liberty Avenue project in 1980 and he will work toward creating housing, particularly for elderly and disabled citizens. President Haggerty asked if the elevator has been replaced at the Library Place building. Alderman Concannon said the elevator is working. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said considering Mr. Quinn's previous experience with the board she expects he will be able to jump right back in. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked Mr. Quinn if the WHA would consider housing at the former Tarky School site. Mr. Quinn said that is a good site. Chairman Campbell said everyone can agree the city needs more senior housing. Mr. Quinn said there was a dispute between former Mayor Rabbitt and WHA Executive Director McNabb about who controls the Tarky site. Alderman Gately said the McGarr School site may also be an option for housing. Mr. Quinn agreed that site is a good site, as well. Chairman Campbell said Mr. Quinn is knowledgeable and

will be a benefit to the WHA board. Motion made by Alderman Anderson and seconded by Alderman Concannon that the appointment “ought to pass with flying colors;” approved, 3-0.

Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Alderman Anderson to adjourn; approved, 3-0. Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees