

## LHAND gets deal from Gloucester charity

By Chris Stevens / The Daily Item

**LYNN** — The Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development Board voted unanimously Monday to ink a deal with a private charitable group out of Gloucester that will save LHAND nearly \$300,000.

"We are really fortunate," said LHAND Executive Director Charles Gaeta. "This is the first time we've had any luck with the state on this."

Action Inc. is a Cape Ann-based organization that works to help families become economically independent.

Tim Leonard, assistant director of Facilities and Procurement for LHAND, told board members he essentially applied to Action Inc., which works through National Grid for help with weatherizing for two public housing properties, Meadow Court and Woodman Street. Leonard said Action personnel came and toured Woodman Street, and offered to install weather stripping, insulation in the crawl space areas and aerators on all faucets.

Before leaving, the people from Action also asked to see the boilers.

He said he was surprised when they offered to replace the boiler and give them a new indirect hot water tank, "all for zero dollars."

The same offer was made for Meadow Court, he said.

"I didn't think Meadow Court was that old, but, we'll take it," he said. "We had planned to pay for Woodman, but they offered high efficient gas boilers all for nothing."

"We kept saying 'where's the catch,' but there doesn't seem to be one," said Paul Gaudet, director of Housing Operations.

Gaeta said the deal would free up \$299,000 that had been budgeted for a new boiler at Woodman. That money, he added, would now go toward other capital improvements.

Leonard said representatives from Action planned to come back and inspect two other properties, Green Street and Caggiano Plaza as well.

"We've been a couple of years trying to get into this," Gaeta said. "I don't know why they suddenly sat up and took notice ... but we're happy they did."

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