

**Affordable Housing Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 22, 2015**

The following are the minutes of the Affordable Housing Board meeting, which was held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 in the Community Development Conference Room, located in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building.

**Statement of Proper Notice**

Adequate notice of the regular meeting of the Lawrence Township Affordable Housing Board has been provided by filing an annual meeting schedule with the Municipal Clerk, and by filing the agenda with the Municipal Clerk, posting prominently in the Municipal Building, and mailing to the Trenton Times, the Trentonian and the Lawrence Ledger.

**Opening of Meeting/Roll Call:**

**Present:** Peter Ferrone, Susan McCloskey, Kevin VanHise, Jean Washington

**Absent:** Murali Mallampati

**Excused Absence:** John Masso, James Kownacki, Council Liaison

**Also Present:** J. Andrew Link, Principal Planner and Susan Snook, Secretary

**Election of Officers:**

Mr. Link opened up the floor for nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

Susan McCloskey nominated Kevin VanHise as chairperson, seconded by Peter Ferrone. No other nominations, Kevin VanHise was unanimously elected Chairperson.

Susan McCloskey nominated John Masso and seconded by Peter Ferrone. Mr. Masso was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The October 23, 2014 minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Housing Rehabilitation Program Update:**

Mr. Link stated there are two units entering rehab and there a couple that have finished up. Advertising will be done for four more units. Chairperson VanHise asked how much money is set aside for this project. Mr. Link stated we took trust fund money out of the trust fund and put it into a grant fund. The initial amount was \$350,000.00; then \$50,000.00 was added and more recently another \$200,000.00 was added.

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**Township Actions (53 Joyner Court and 12 Mendrey Court):**

Mr. Link stated that 53 Joyner Court is a unit that the Township purchased because of a foreclosure. The rehabilitation work is being completed and it will be sold to a income qualified applicant.

12 Mendrey Court is a unit where the owner is not living in it and is being rented. The homeowners were going to sell and now the owner wants to move back in. Mr. Link will be checking this evening.

Chairperson VanHise asked about the homeowners who needed a hardship and wanted to know the status. Mr. Link stated there was one person who was interested; however, he spoke with the son and everything was a go. Mr. Link called the son and he never returned the call.

**Status of Changes at State Level:**

Chairperson VanHise stated in October COAH did not adopt the rules. Fair Share Housing Center filed a motion with the Supreme Court to try to get something jump started. The Supreme Court heard arguments on January 6<sup>th</sup>, which went on for three hours. Mr. Walsh of Fair Share Housing Center requested the Court declare the COAH process unworkable.

Chairperson VanHise summarized all the remarks and arguments from the attorneys, builders and League of Municipality. One of the biggest things they are struggling with is the 300+ COAH towns and if they declare the COAH process is unworkable, the 300+ Towns will now be in the Courts.

The Judge asked COAH what they did and they did come up with rules and were published and were ordered to vote on them. However, the vote came to a tie. Since the last time, they have not met and nothing is scheduled.

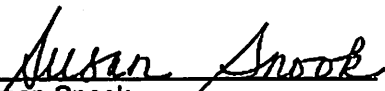
Judge stated to deny the motion, so what is proposed to happen and confirmed that nothing is scheduled and just should be denied. No one knows what the Supreme Court is going to do.

Mr. Link asked isn't part of the problem that COAH is dysfunctional because they do not have enough members on the Board. Chairperson VanHise stated the Board is twelve or fourteen members. A full COAH board is an even number; that the system is set up because you have special interests (represents different groups) which means they could tie.

**Other Business:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2015 p.m.

  
Susan Snook  
Secretary

SJS

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