

## Affordable Housing Board Meeting

Thursday, June 21, 2012

The following are the minutes of the Affordable Housing Board meeting, which was held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 in the Community Development Conference Room, located in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building.

### **I. 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.

Present: Peter Ferrone, Susan McCloskey, Kevin VanHise, Jean Washington, Walker Ristau

Absent: James Kownacki, Council Liaison

Excused Absence: William Capell, John Masso

Also Present: Andrew Link, Liaison; Susan Snook, Secretary

### **II. Approval of Minutes:**

The May 17, 2012 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

### **III. Public Comment:**

None

### **IV. Allocation of Trust Funds:**

Chairperson Van Hise stated the Township officially received approval from Local Government Services to establish the grant program.

### **V. Status of Changes at State Level:**

There are a lot of municipalities doing the things similar to Lawrence looking for ways for committing the funds where it is establishing the grant program; finding activities to put the money into. COAH has still not provided any clarity on what it needs to satisfy the statutory requirements to commit to expend trust funds. As of this date, even committing funds for developments that are in the affordable housing program and spending plans may not be sufficient. Chairperson VanHise went on to explain there are no regulations that have been put into place. There are two big changes; the Supreme Court denied the States motion to stay; which means COAH should have never been abolished.

The Senate and Assembly held hearings on some legislative bills to extend the 4 year time frame to 6 years. COAH is moving forward on the spending plans, not sure if any have been approved. Peter Ferrone asked if they do nothing, what goes on? Chairperson VanHise stated the Township cannot spend or commitment to expand before the prior approval of COAH. The State will order those funds to be turned in.

Jean Washington asked about the COAH office regarding their locations and members. Chairperson Van Hise gave a brief description about COAH and all the decisions about adopting new rules and rules of certain Statutes; the four years that Township's had monies and has no spending plans.

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Peter Ferrone asked what the total numbers are based on population? Chairperson VanHise stated they commissioned experts from Rutgers, Penn, and Columbia and planners to get together how to figure out a formula; what the income levels were demographically within the State and these are the people that need affordable housing. They then figured out how many families were at certain income levels and what their needs are, low income or moderate income, very low income families and work force housing (which is a different income). Basically it was to figure out how many people are in the state, how many housing units we have in the State and what the economic break downs were.

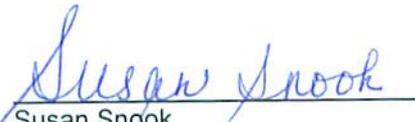
There was a brief discussion about the housing market and how sales were up and the market changed where sales were down; where banks are very leery to lend money.

**VI. Other Business:**

None

**VII. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05. The next meeting will be held on July 19, 2012 p.m.

  
Susan Snook  
Secretary

SJS

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