

Affordable Housing Board Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2012

The following are the minutes of the Affordable Housing Board meeting, which was held on Thursday, May 17, 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, John Masso, Susan McCloskey, Kevin VanHise
Jean Washington, Walker Ristau

Absent: None

Excused Absence: James Kownacki, Council Liaison; William Capell

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

The April 19, 2012 minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

III. Public Comment:

None

IV. Allocation of Trust Funds:

In 2008 there was an amendment to the Housing Act and municipalities were asked to spend their trust fund monies or you lose anything that was older than four (4) years; so this is what Lawrence is struggling to do now.

Mr. Link thinks this is part of the amended budget and the three (3) items were to put our trust monies into a separate account and hopefully will be safe from being seized by the State. These items are rehabilitation of units, extension of affordable controls and a fund to buy units that are in foreclosure.

V. Status of Changes at State Level:

There are no changes at the State Level, which includes no court date yet for what the Department will be called. The Department of Community Affairs is still indicating that DCA or COAH has every intent of seizing the trust fund monies on July 18, 2012. COAH has started to approve spending plans again, which two (2) were approved last week (both towns which have zero dollars for seizers).

Ms. McCloskey stated she read where they are trying to find ways to pass something to extend the time frame. There are Assembly bills to extend the deadline from 4 years to 8 years and possibly one to go 6 years. It was also discussed, that Towns have not been spending the money because once it is gone, it will not be replenished; so if a unit comes up that needs rehabilitation, there is no money left.

Chairperson VanHise stated that is part of the problem, there is very little residential growth going on and there is a moratorium on non-residential development fees.

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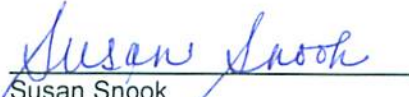
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VI. Other Business:

None

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.



Susan Snook
Secretary

SJS

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After the meeting ended, the Committee members introduced themselves to the new member, Walker Ristau.