

**Affordable Housing Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 28, 2015**

The following are the minutes of the Affordable Housing Board meeting, which was held on Thursday, May 28, 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.

**I. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call:**

Present: Peter Ferrone, Susan McCloskey, Kevin VanHise, Jean Washington, Murali Mallapati, Jessica Ann Clifford

Absent: James Kownacki, Council Liaison

Excused Absence: John Masso

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

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

The April 23, 2015 minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

**III. Public Comment:**

None

**IV. Housing Rehabilitation Program Update:**

Mr. Link stated that everything is in limbo because of COAH and the courts; more specifically where we will be getting credits and we do not want to spend our resources on doing rehab if we are not going to get credits for what we do. So the program will be on hold. The rehabs that have been started will continue but there will be no new rehabs.

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

Mr. Link stated:

53 Joyner Court is Township owned and someone is interested in purchasing it; there is a hold up with her mortgage company; the mortgage company is the hold up because the investors balk at the restrictions, being an affordable housing unit; has restrictions on resale and other things and they backed out; so looking for another investor.

217 Fountayne Lane is another unit the Township owns. It will be fixed up, including a contract for administration of rehab of units and will include this home under the rehab program. Electric and gas on; someone will come in to remove all the debris left in the unit. The deed is the Township name and the Township is responsible for the Homeowner Association fees. The amount will be given at a later date and it will be sold to an eligible income family.

12 Mendrey Court stated it is still vacant and Mr. Link checks it often.

Mr. Ferrone asked Mr. Link about the Sheriff's sale for 301 Talon Court and it has not been scheduled yet.

**VI. Status of Changes at State Level:**

Chairperson VanHise stated the biggest change that has occurred is that COAH's expert who has formulated all of the obligations for the municipalities was finally released to actually do calculations of the obligations for all of the municipalities and the letters went out and asking if their Towns are interested in using Dr. Bershell for a calculation on their affordable housing needs.

There have been no changes and the green light for filing is June 8<sup>th</sup>, which starts the 30-day period. Chairperson VanHise was discussing Dr. Bershell if the Township hires him about not using the same formula that he used for the State. Mr. Link wanted to know once a number was given to that Township was it subject to challenge. Chairperson VanHise stated from the Fair Share and the Builder's Association.

Mr. Mallampati asked a question about Dr. Bershell not being able to use the same numbers as he used for the State. Chairperson VanHise stated he could come up with different numbers, which could be the same numbers, but the work he did for COAH was done under a litigation privilege according to the agreement that came out of the Supreme Court challenges, so that work is attorney client privilege and/or privilege to the agency that hired him. Mr. Mallampati asked if it is a conflict and Chairperson VanHise stated there is no conflict because COAH did not exist.

**Other Business:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

  
Susan Snook  
Secretary

SJS

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