

Land bank Board Meeting Minutes Courthouse Annex Conference room 5/14/2015

Meeting was called to order by: Vince Witherup at 1:35 PM

In attendance:

- Vince Witherup-Commissioner
- Bonnie Summers-Commissioner
- Diona Brick-Fiscal
- Julie Thompson-Tax Claim
- Robert Walter-Assessment
- Barb Cisek McGarvey-Residential Representative
- Paul Calderone-Residential Representative
- Mary Swisher-Assessment
- Jason Ruggiero-Planning
- Emily Donaldson-Planning
- Nancy Marano-Emlenton Borough Manager
- Paul Kentzel-Residential Representative

1. A motion was done by Paul Calderone to accept last month's meeting minutes second by Diona; all in favor.
2. Julie talked about the judicial sale, stating that the properties she felt the land bank may have been interested in, has either sold or currently has a bid to be purchased from the repository sale.
3. Nancy Marano talked about the background of the blue print community; she stated that it is made up of Emlenton, Foxburg & Parker. The program is to basically help the community "rename" itself, by using the assets available. Nancy stated that it was told to them, that this area should stop looking for industries to come back to this area, because they are going to where boating, train and flight is available. It was suggested that the land bank may want to try purchasing some of the blight properties and sell to tele communicators, because the industries are finding it more cost efficient to have their administrative staff work from home.
4. Paul inquired as to approaching the commissioners to obtain money for the land bank; Diona stated that they should have a plan in action before doing so.
5. One of the concerns was the blight properties being purchased by landlords and not being remodeled but being used as a rental. Jason stated that a solution is to have the houses razed before they can be purchased to help cut back on the housing stock.
6. Another concern to renovating a house is having an owner leave their current house to move into one that has been renovated, leaving another vacant house in your community for the cycle to continue. Therefore demoing the house and try selling the vacant lot to the neighbor maybe better in some cases.
7. Bonnie was approached by Wells Fargo bank stating they have a house on Otter Street; they are willing to donate to the land bank.
 - A. Paul Kentzel, has offered to do a valuation of the house to see if it is feasible for the land bank to obtain the property to renovate and try selling it.
 - B. Vince is going to check with Bonnie to get more information and see if the keys can be obtained.
8. Barb suggested for the land bank to approach the Venango County Realtors and let them know what the land bank is trying to do and see if they will be willing to cut them a break and work with the land bank.
9. Diona has asked Jason and Emily if they could look into seeing what blight grants the land bank may qualify for and bring the information to the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Vince made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 PM and Barb seconded it. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 11, 2015 at 1:30 PM

Submitted by:

Mary Swisher