

Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING OF OCTOBER 2, 2023

via remote technology

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 pm

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Steven Ewing, Pamela Goff, Wesley Mott, Kristen Reimann, Sarah Thulin, Nancy Weaver, Peter Wells

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AT CALL TO ORDER

None

STAFF PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

James Lengyel

OTHERS PRESENT DURING THE SESSION

Philip Cordella, Jeffrey DuBard, Arielle Faria, Thomas Humphrey (*Vineyard Gazette*)

PRESENTATION OF THE WARRANT

Warrant no. 2024-14 was made available for the Commission's inspection.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Hearing no proposed additions, Mrs. Goff declared the agenda approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

By a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to approve the minutes as written.

COUNTY AND LAND BANK COMMISSION TREASURERS' REPORTS

None

TRANSFER FEE REVENUES

Revenues for the week ending September 29, 2023: \$579,801.46

NEW BUSINESS

1. Agency Administration: Composition of the Town Advisory Boards

The Commission reviewed a draft letter to the towns, prepared by staff, regarding the composition of the Town Advisory Boards (TABs). The letter advises the island selectboards and housing committees that the Commission does not support a revision to the land bank law that would change the TAB definition so as to include an appointee by the town's housing committees, as (1.) proposing an amendment to the law exposes the entire law to revision, as off-island legislators would be free to amend it as they wish; and (2.) the matter can be addressed right now in town hall, by having the selectboards, or other boards in town, choose a housing advocate as their appointee.

After discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to approve the letter as drafted.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Agency Administration: Composition of the Town Advisory Boards

Jeffrey DuBard stated that he is seeking to amend the land bank law so as to include a housing committee representative on the TAB. Commissioners variously noted (1.) that such representation can put in place immediately — via appointment of a housing committee members by any of the boards that currently appoint members of the TAB — without having to involve the legislature; (2.) that the land bank is already doing so much for affordable housing and that there aren't many more ways it can do it; (3.) that — especially given how many affordable housing projects on the Vineyard have had some sort of land bank involvement — conservation and affordable housing shouldn't be portrayed as in opposition to each other; (4.) that all members of the TABs are held to strict standards as regards conflict-of-interest; and (5.) that a proposed amendment to the land bank law could be a distraction to the legislature as it contemplates the creation of a housing bank.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE WARRANT

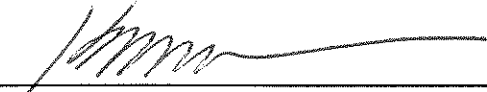
The Commission endorsed Warrant no. 2024-14.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

By a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, lease, exchange or value of real property. Mrs. Goff stated that the subjects to be discussed are the purchase or value of real property and declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Commis-

sion. She further announced that the Commission would not reconvene in regular session after the conclusion of the executive session. The Commission entered executive session at 3:21 pm.

certification:



Kristen Reimann, Secretary