## **MEMORANDUM**

### CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

DATE: December 1, 2014

**TO:** Board of Adjustment

FROM: Beth McKibben, Planner

Community Development Department

**FILE NO.:** VAR2014 0020

**PROPOSAL:** A Variance Request to reduce the front yard setback along Glacier

Highway to allow construction of a house and garage.

**GENERAL INFORMATION** 

Applicant: John H. and Nancy Norman

Property Owner: John H. and Nancy Norman

Property Address: 17225 Glacier Highway

Legal Description: USS 3267 Lot 54 FR

Parcel Code Number: 8-B34-0-102-005-0

Site Size: 9,016 square feet

Comprehensive Plan Future

Land Use Designation: Rural Dispersed Residential (RDR) Map D

Zoning: D1

Utilities: City Water, On-Site Waste Water Disposal

Access: Glacier Highway

Existing Land Use: Vacant

Surrounding Land Use: North - (D1) Residential

South - (D1) Residential

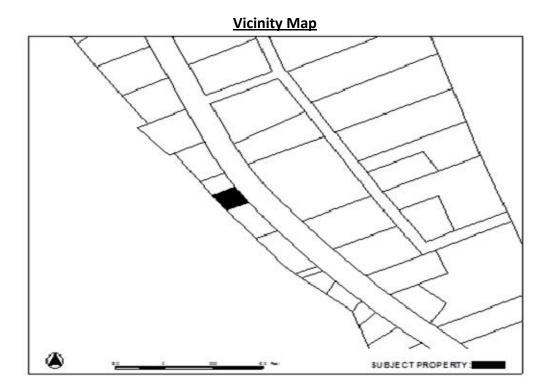
East - (D1) Glacier Highway, Residential

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

West - Lena Cove

Board of Adjustment File No.: VAR2014 0020 December 1, 2014

Page 2 of 6



#### **Attachments**

Attachment A - Site Plan

Attachment B – Topography in 5 Foot Contours

Attachment C – Aerial Photograph with Parcel Lines

Attachment D - Email from Marie Heidemann, AKDOT/PF

#### **Project Description**

The applicant is seeking a variance that will allow a single family home with an attached two car garage to be constructed in the front yard setback. The required front yard setback in the D1 zoning district is 25 feet and the applicant is seeking a 5 foot front yard setback.

#### **Background**

Lot 54 was created in 1954. In 1966 a plat waiver was approved by the Greater Juneau Borough Planning Commission and Lot 54 was split into two lots. In 1977 the northern Lot 54 Fraction received a variance to reduce the required front yard setback to zero. The lot does not meet the dimensional requirements for the current D1 zoning, which is 36,000 square feet for permissible uses. The lot in question is 9,016 square feet, and does not the meet the minimum lot width or depth requirements of 150 feet (attachment A). It is approximately 55 feet deep and 92 feet wide. The D1 zoning districts minimum lot width and depth requirement is 150 feet.

Board of Adjustment File No.: VAR2014 0020 December 1, 2014 Page 3 of 6

#### **Analysis**

CBJ 49.25.430(J) allows for a reduction in required setbacks for substandard lots. But the reduction is for side yards only. The applicant's proposal does not require a side yard variance. CBJ 49.25.430(K) allows for new buildings to have reduced front yard setbacks equal to the average front yard setback of the three closest adjacent buildings. However, in no case can the front yard setback be less than half that required by this chapter, or ten feet, whichever is greater. The required setback is 25 feet, half is 12.5 feet. The applicant is seeking a five foot setback, hence the request for a variance.

As mentioned above the lot is substantially smaller than the required 36,000 square feet. Additionally, the lot has a significant slope, leading to a cliff, minimizing the buildable area. Attachment B shows the topography of the site in five foot contours. The most level area of the lot is within the front yard.

In reviewing the aerial photograph of the site (attachment C) the edge of the parcel appears to be approximately 100 feet from the roadway. Our cartographer notes that in this part of the borough the parcel lines are not accurate, so this must be considered approximate.

AKDOT/PF has no objection to the requested five foot front yard setback (attachment D). However, no encroachments into the ROW will be allowed and any parking deck, carport or garage structures should be constructed to ensure that vehicles are not backing out into the roadway, and that there is adequate room for a turn around, such as a hammerhead.

The application indicates that an AKDOT/PF driveway permit has been approved, but a copy was not provided.

#### **Variance Requirements**

Under CBJ 49.20.250 where hardship and practical difficulties result from an extraordinary situation or unique physical feature affecting only a specific parcel of property or structures lawfully existing thereon and render it difficult to carry out the provisions of Title 49, the Board of Adjustment may grant a Variance in harmony with the general purpose and intent of Title 49. A Variance may vary any requirement or regulation of Title 49 concerning dimensional and other design standards, but not those concerning the use of land or structures, housing density, lot coverage, or those establishing construction standards. A Variance may be granted after the prescribed hearing and after the Board of Adjustment has determined:

 That the relaxation applied for or a lesser relaxation specified by the Board of Adjustment would give substantial relief to the owner of the property involved and be more consistent with justice to other property owners.

The requested relaxation to allow construction of a single family home and an attached garage five

Board of Adjustment File No.: VAR2014 0020 December 1, 2014 Page 4 of 6

feet from the front property line would give substantial relief to the owner of the property involved. The steeply sloped lot is substandard, limiting the buildable area. Because of the steepness of the area many homes and garages are located close to the road. Both lots on either side of this proposal have received variances to the front yard setback.

**Yes.** Staff finds that criterion 1 is met.

# 2. That relief can be granted in such a fashion that the intent of this title will be observed and the public safety and welfare be preserved.

The intent of Title 49 is established in Section CBJ 49.05.100 Purpose and Intent. If approved this variance will meet the intent of the Land Use Code, specifically CBJ 49.05.100(5) "to provide adequate open space for light and air." and in part CBJ 49.05.100(4) "to ensure that future growth is of the appropriate type, design and location....." and in part CBJ 49.05.100(6) , "... recognize the economic value of land and encourage its proper and beneficial use."

The public health and welfare will be preserved as the proposed house and garage will be located so as to not impact sight visibility and will maintain the existing character of the neighborhood.

**Yes.** Staff finds that criterion 2 is met.

#### 3. That the authorization of the Variance will not injure nearby property

No evidence has been presented to indicate that the requested variance will injure nearby properties. It is consistent with the character of the neighborhood, since similar structures currently exist as close, or closer, to the front lot line than proposed by the applicant. The proposed house and attached garage will not pose any obstructions to nearby right-of-way and will not affect line of sight for vehicles traveling in the highway.

**Yes.** Staff finds that criterion 3 is met.

#### 4. That the Variance does not authorize uses not allowed in the district involved.

The proposed use is single-family residential with an attached garage. The use is allowed within this district, per CBJ 49.25.300 Table of Permissible Uses, section 1.110.

**Yes**. Staff finds that criterion 4 is met.

#### 5. That compliance with the existing standards would:

# (A) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property for a permissible principal use;

The lot is substandard in size and steeply sloping, reducing the buildable area. Respecting

Board of Adjustment File No.: VAR2014 0020 December 1, 2014 Page 5 of 6

the front yard setback of 25 feet would render the lot nearly undevelopable.

**Yes.** Staff finds that sub-criterion 5(A) is met

(B) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property in a manner which is consistent as to scale, amenities, appearance or features, with existing development in the neighborhood of the subject property;

The lots on both sides of the proposed house and attached garage have been granted variances to the front yard setback. The proposed building appears to be of a scale and appearance consistent with other existing development in the neighborhood.

**Yes.** Staff finds that sub-criterion 5(B) is met.

(C) Be unnecessarily burdensome because unique physical features of the property render compliance with the standards unreasonably expensive;

The lot, 9,016 square feet in area, does not meet the minimum lot size requirements of the current zoning district, which is 36,000 square feet. The lot is steeply sloping, further limiting the buildable area. The site will be serviced with on-site waste water disposal, further restricting the buildable area. These factors create a unique situation that makes compliance with the standards unreasonably expensive.

**Yes.** Staff finds that sub-criterion 5(C) is met.

or

(D) Because of preexisting nonconforming conditions on the subject parcel the grant of the Variance would not result in a net decrease in overall compliance with the Land Use Code, CBJ Title 49, or the building code, CBJ Title 19, or both.

The pre-existing nonconformity is the size of the lot, in that it does not meet dimensional requirements of the current D1 zoning. However, this pre-existing nonconformity does not prohibit conformity with setback requirements.

No. This sub-criterion is not met.

Yes. Staff finds that criterion 5 is met because sub-criterion 5(A), (B) and (C) are met.

6. That a grant of the Variance would result in more benefits than detriments to the neighborhood.

Granting this variance would allow the property owner to construct a single family home and

Board of Adjustment File No.: VAR2014 0020 December 1, 2014 Page 6 of 6

attached garage in a manner consistent with the surrounding development. No detriments to the neighborhood are expected if vehicles do not back out onto the highway, as recommended by AKDOT/PF.

**Yes.** Staff finds that criterion 6 is met

#### **Findings**

#### 1. Is the application for the requested Variance complete?

**Yes.** Staff finds the application contains the information necessary to conduct full review of the proposed operations. The application submittal by the applicant, including the appropriate fees, substantially conforms to the requirements of CBJ Chapter 49.15.

Per CBJ 49.70.900 (b)(3), General Provisions, the Director makes the following Juneau Coastal Management Program consistency determination:

2. Will the proposed development comply with the Juneau Coastal Management Programs?

**Yes.** The JCMP does not apply to this variance request.

3. Does the variance as requested, meet the criteria of Section 49.20.250, Grounds for Variances?

**Yes.** Yes. Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are met. Based on the analysis above, staff finds that the a meets the criteria of CBJ §49.20.250, Grounds for Variances.

#### Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board of Adjustment adopt the Director's analysis and findings and grant the requested Variance, VAR2014 0020. The Variance permit would allow for construction of a single family home and attached garage up to 5 feet from the front property line with the following conditions:

1. Staff recommends a condition requiring an as-built survey to confirm the 5 foot setback prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

### DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Project Number Date Received: Q CITY and BOROUGH of JUNEAU VAVL20140020 Project Name (City Staff to Assign Name Project Description lamily dwelling SIngle Build PROPERTY LOCATION 2 Street Address Legal Description(s) of Parcel(s) (Subdivision, Survey, Block, Tract, Lot)

Assessor's Parcel News 0 Juneau, Assessor's Parcel Number(s) OC LANDOWNER/LESSEE 0 Property Owner's Name Contact Person: Work Phone: 6011 L 612-719-8303 John H. John 2 Mailing Address Home Phone: Fax Number: P.O. Box E-mail Address 907-523-8424 Other Contact Phone Number(s): ichn. ak com LANDOWNER/ LESSEE CONSENT Required for Planning Permits, not needed on Building/ Engineering Permits\*\*\*\* I am (we are) the owner(s)or lessee(s) of the property subject to this application and I (we) consent as follows: This application for a land use or activity review for development on my (our) property is made with my complete understanding and permission. I (we) grant permission for officials and employees of the City and Borough of Juneau to inspect my property as needed for purposes of this 2 APPLICA orman X Landowner/Lessee Signature wire X Landowner/Lessee Signature NOTICE: The City and Borough of Juneau staff may need access to the subject property during regular business hours and will attempt to contact the landowner in addition to the formal consent given above. Further, members of the Planning Commission may visit the property before the scheduled public OJECT hearing date. If the same as OWNER, write "SAME" and sign and date at X below APPLICANT Applicant's Name Contact Person: Work Phone Mailing Address 00 Home Phone: Fax Number: E-mail Address Other Contact Phone Number(s): X Applicant's Signature Date of Application Permit Type Date Received Application Number(s) Building/Grading Permit City/State Project Review and City Land Action Inquiry Case S (Fee In Lieu, Letter of ZC, Use Not Listed) Mining Case Q (Small, Large, Rural, Extraction, Exploration) >0 Sign Approval (If more than one, fill in all applicable permit #'s) Subdivision œ (Minor, Major, PUD, St. Vacation, St. Name Change) 0\_ Use Approval (Allowable, Conditional, Cottage Housing, 0\_ Mobile Home Parks, Accessory Apartment) Variance Case 0 VAR20140020 (De Minimis and all other Variance case types) Wetlands U. Permits L Zone Change 0 Application -Other (Describe) \*\*\*Public Notice Sign Form filled out and in the file Comments: Permit Intake Initials

1	,	1//	RIANCE A	DDI ICA	TION	ghnyl	orman
	Project Number	Project Name (15 c		AFF LIGF	Case Number		Date Received
2. T	TYPE OF VARIANCE REQUESTED:						
	Variance t	to the Sign	(VSG)		Variance to Dimensional (VDS) Standards		(VDS)
	Variance to Habitat Setbacks		(VHB)		Variance to Parking Requirements		(VPK)
	Variance t Require	o Setback ments	(VSB)				
	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY WHICH REQUIRES A VARIANCE: Build a single family dwelling for self. On May 9,1977 the Board of adjustment approved a variance establishing a a zero front yard setback. (File #VR-8-77) I request a 5' setback to more closely match properties to the north and south lattached drawing.						
	Previous Variance Applications?  Previous Case Number(s): VES NO Date of Filling: May 1977  Was the Variance Granted? YES NO						
	UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF LAND OR BUILDING(S): No buildings exist. The severe topo- quaphy relief and cliff limit the building site to be adjescent to the highway. The angular north and south lotlines further restrict house placement, particularly at the highway corners. The legal description is Lot 54 FR. Attached is a copy of the May 9, 1977 approval for a zero frontyped setback						
) ) !	UTILITIES AVAIL	.ABLE: W	ATER: Public	On Site	SEWER:	Public	On Site
	WHY WOULD A VARIANCE BE NEEDED FOR THIS PROPERTY REGARDLESS OF THE OWNER? With the current 25' front yard setback from ROW it will be prohibitually expensive, if not impossible to build a house on this property. I now par 2850 per year property taxes. No one will purchase this property from me, or from anyone else, if it is an unbuildable lot. This view lot (with a suitable house) will be assessed at 300,000. Without it is worthless.						
	WHAT HARDSHIP WOULD RESULT IF THE VARIANCE WERE NOT GRANTED?  I will not be able to build a house on the lot, now recome my monitary investight 70 years obt, and fewer years to build the house I want to build, it will be economically disastrous. The Borought will like wise lose 1500 property taxes year because I will no longer be able to pay the 2550 taxes and will be unated to sell it.						
2	For more information permitting process a required for a complease see the reverse	on regarding the nd the submittals plete application,	VARIANCE FEES  Application Fees	s 400 Cl	Check No.	Receipt	Date
	If you need any ass this form, please co	sistance filling out	Adjustment  Total Fee	4000		CDDS78	9/24/14

NOTE: MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

#### Variance Application Instructions

<u>Application</u>: An application for a Variance will not be accepted by the Community Development Department until it is determined to be complete. The items needed for a complete application are:

**Forms:** A completed Variance Application and Development Permit Application form. The "land owner or lessee consent" signature is <u>mandatory</u> for all landowners on the Development Permit Application form.

Fees: The fee for a Variance Application is \$400.00. If the application is in conjunction with a major development permit a separate fee shall not be required. Any development, work or use done without a permit issued will be subject to double fees. All fees are subject to change.

**Project Description:** A detailed letter or narrative describing the hardship and/or practical difficulties that is the result of an extraordinary situation or unique physical feature affecting a specific parcel of land or structure. Also include how the proposed project meets the variance criteria listed on the attached sheet.

**Plans:** A site plan, drawn to scale, is required for all Variance Applications. The site plan should include the following information:

- A. The location of existing and proposed structures (i.e. buildings, fences, signs, parking areas, etc.); and
- B. The location of existing physical features of the site (i.e. drainage, eagle trees, hazard areas, salmon streams, wetlands, etc.).

**Document Format:** All information that is submitted as part of an application shall be submitted in either of the following formats:

- A. Electronic copies may be submitted by CD, DVD or E-mail in the following formats: .doc, .txt, .xls, .bmp, .pdf, .jpg, .gif, .xlm, .rtf or other formats pre-approved by the Community Development Department.
- B. Paper copies may not be larger than 11" X 17" (Unless a larger paper size is preapproved by the Community Development Department).

Please consult with the Community Development Department to discuss whether additional information may be required for your application. The "Planner-On-Call" can be reached by contacting the Permit Center at 586-0770 or via e-mail at <a href="mailto:Permits@ci.juneau.ak.us">Permits@ci.juneau.ak.us</a>.

<u>Application Review & Hearing Procedure</u>: Once the application is determined to be complete, the Community Development Department will initiate the review and scheduling of the application. This process includes:

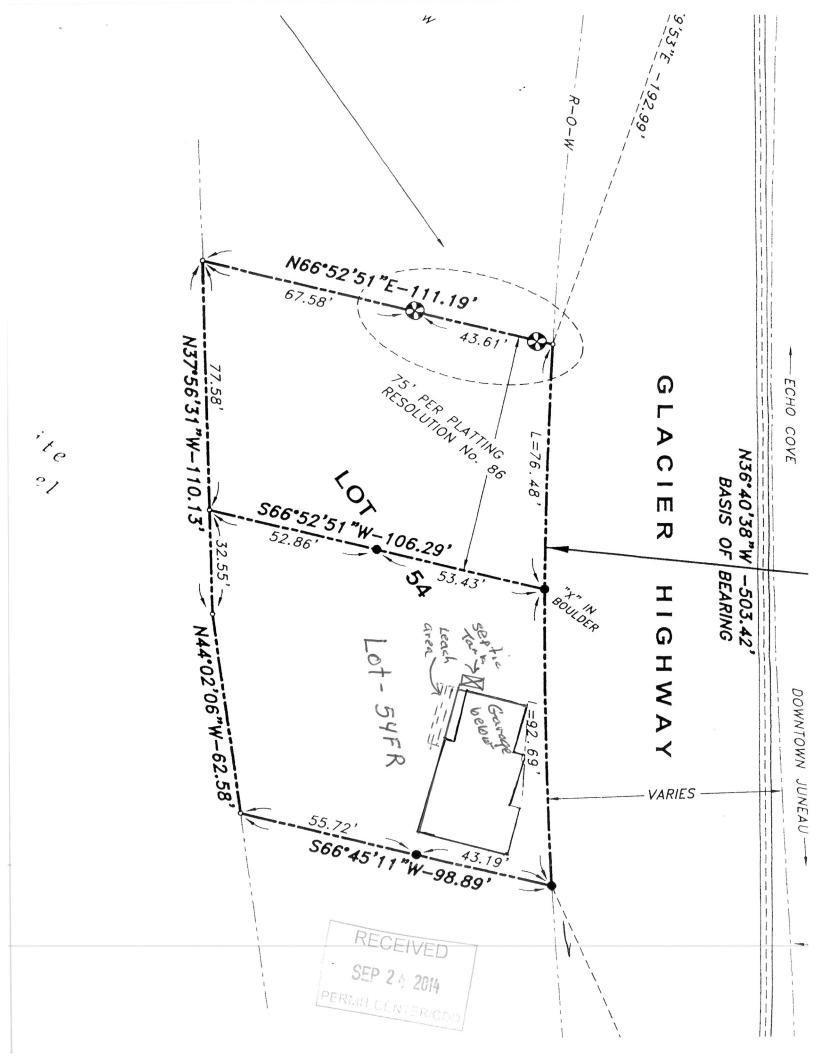
Review: As part of the review process the Community Development Department will evaluate the application for consistency with all applicable City & Borough of Juneau codes and adopted plans. Depending on unique characteristics of the Variance Application request the application may be required to be reviewed by other municipal boards and committees. During this review period, the Community Development Department will coordinate the review of this application by other agencies, as necessary. Review comments may require the applicant to provide additional information, clarification, or submit modifications/alterations for the proposed project.

Hearing: All Variance Applications must be reviewed by the Board of Adjustment. Once an application has been deemed complete and has been reviewed by all applicable parties the Community Development Department will schedule the requested permit for the next appropriate meeting.

<u>Public Notice Responsibilities</u>: As part of the Variance process, all requests must be given proper public notice, which consists of the following:

Community Development Department: Will give notice of the pending Planning Commission meeting and its agenda in the local newspaper a minimum of 10-days prior to the meeting. Furthermore, the department will mail abutters notices to all property owners within 500-feet of the project site. A "Public Notice Sign" is not required to be posted on the site.

PLEASE NOTE: As provided by CBJ Land Use code section on Variances (CBJ§49.20.200), a Variance may vary any requirement or regulation of this title concerning dimensional and other design standards, but <u>NOT</u> those concerning the <u>use of land or structures</u>, <u>housing density</u>, <u>lot coverage</u>, or <u>those establishing construction</u> standards.



#### Variance Approval Criteria

A variance may be granted after the prescribed hearing and after the Board of Adjustment has determined the following criteria are met. Include in your project narrative a detailed description about how your proposal meets each of the criteria listed below:

- (1) The relaxation applied for or a lesser relaxation specified by the board of adjustment would give substantial relief to the owner of the property involved and be more consistent with justice to other property owners;
- (2) Relief can be granted in such a fashion that the intent of this title will be observed and the public safety and welfare preserved;
- (3) The authorization of the variance will not injure nearby property;
- (4) The variance does not authorize uses not allowed in the district involved;
- (5) Compliance with the existing standards would:
  - (A) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property for a permissible principal use;
  - (B) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property in a manner which is consistent as to scale, amenities, appearance or features, with existing development in the neighborhood of the subject property;
  - (C) Be unnecessarily burdensome because unique physical features of the property render compliance with the standards unreasonably expensive; or
  - (D) Because of preexisting nonconforming conditions on the subject parcel, the grant of the variance would not result in a net decrease in overall compliance with the land use code, title 49, or the building code, title 19, or both; and
- (6) A grant of the variance would result in more benefits than detriments to the neighborhood.

PLEASE NOTE: As provided by CBJ Land Use code section on Variances (CBJ§49.20.200), a Variance may vary any requirement or regulation of this title concerning dimensional and other design standards, but NOT those concerning the use of land or structures, housing density, lot coverage, or those establishing construction standards.

other Notes - Thank you for Your consideration

other all 6 variance approval will be met.

The dwelling isto be built at a 5' setback with 62+11 of distance. Huy to garage of one car garage and parking space (on lot) for 2 less vehicles will be available utilizing fill ident/rook from the lot.

other approved septic systems/leach fields are installed in lot 53 and 54 north by Renovators Inc. Han has assured me that 1 will be able to do the Same. 1544 of city water curb stop is available/installed near the NE corner of the garage of electricity, appropriate transformer, and wtility pile for lot 54FR are in place.

of mature grove of sprace, hemlock, and western alder will remain in place of mature grove of sprace, hemlock, and western alder will remain in place of mature grove of sprace, hemlock, and western alder will remain in place.

Out mature grove of sprace, hemlock, and western alder will remain in place.

Out mature grove of sprace, hemlock, and western alder will remain in place.

Out with the stready approved driveway permit, forsees no highway safety.

Out, with the already approved driveway permit, forsees no highway safety.

Out engineer has already designed an appropriate foundation place for the proposed house on lot 54FR.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PERMIT CENTER/CDD

Example Sont al/Variance request.

DATE:

May 13, 1977

FILE NO.

SUBJECT:

Mr. Steve Brown Box 936 Auke Bay, Alaska 99821

Dear Mr. Boom:

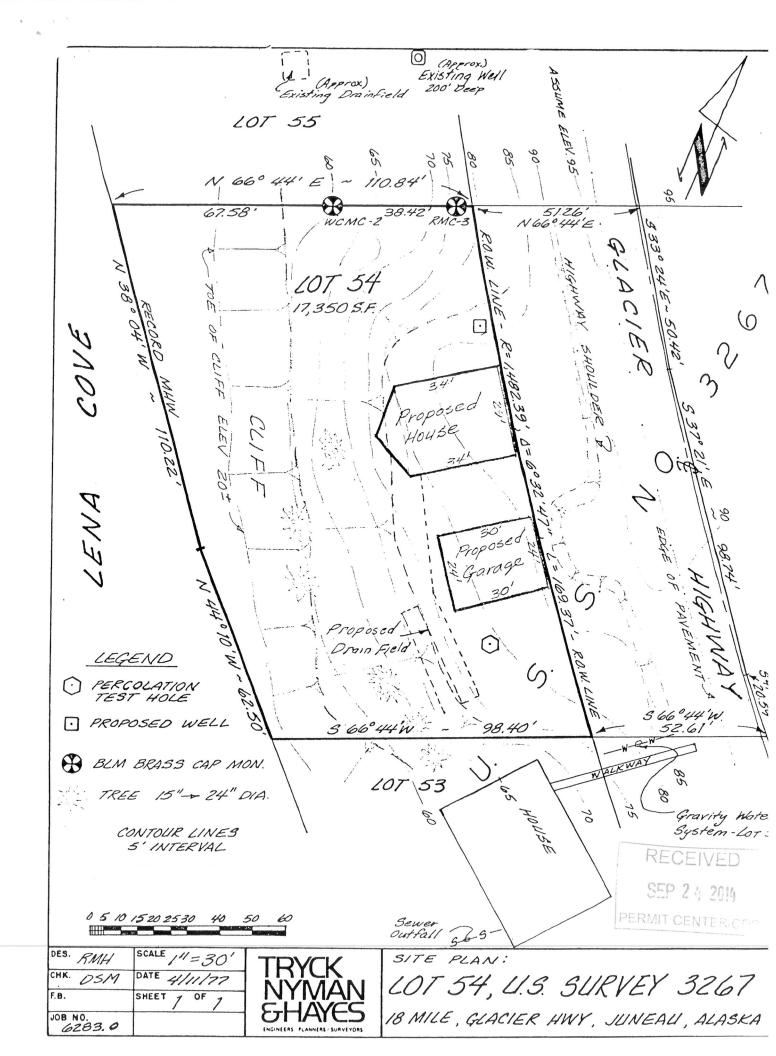
This is to formally advise that the Board of Adjustment, at it's meeting on May 9, 1977, approved your variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement to zero (0) feet for your proposed house and garage on Lot 54, U.S.S. 3267

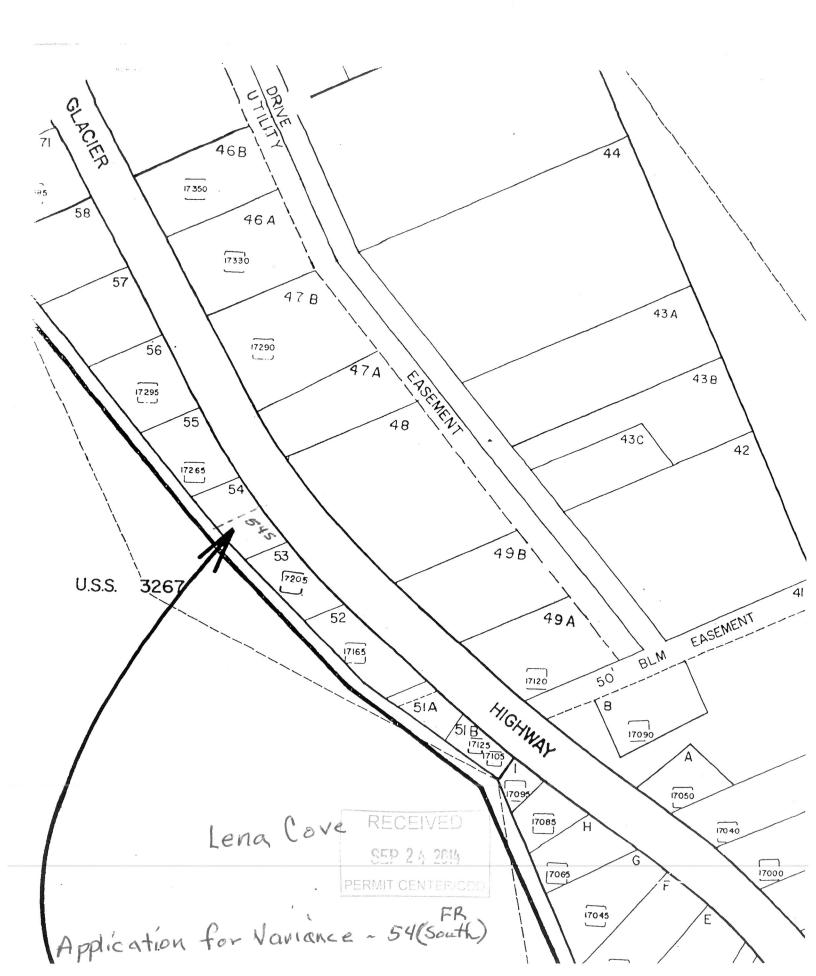
Sincerely,

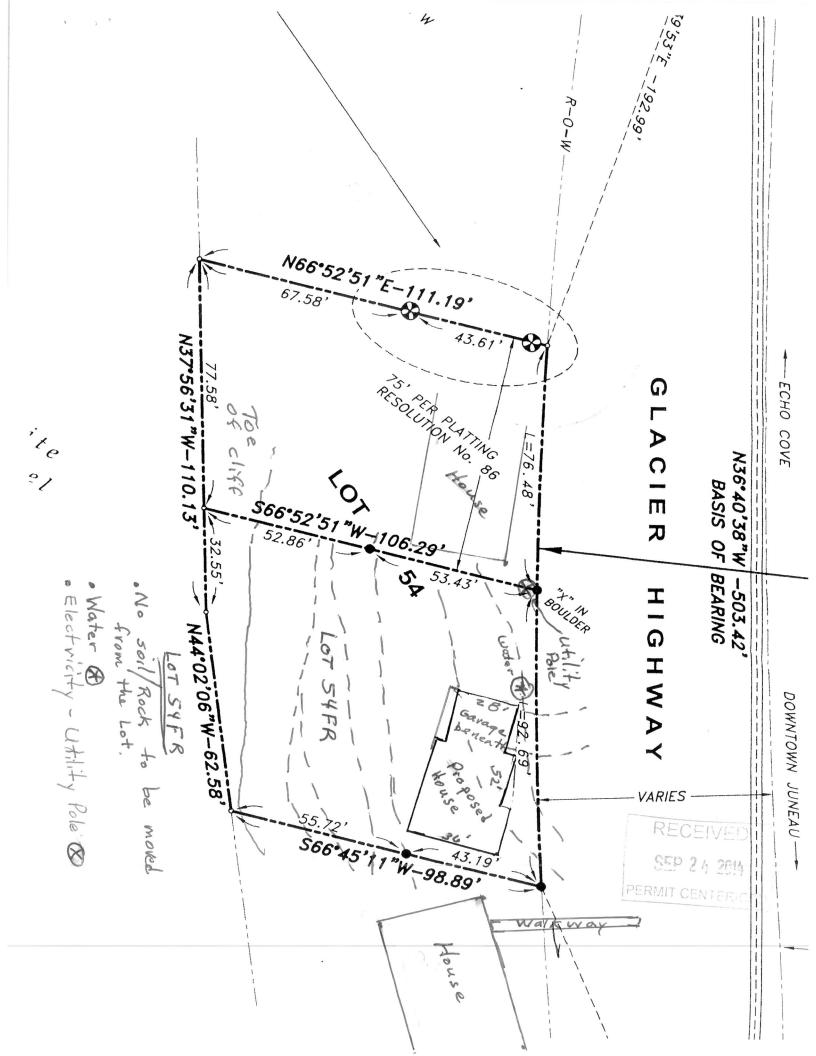
Steve Gilbertson Zoning Administrator

SG:cj

RECLIVED SEP 2 4 2014 PERMIT CENTER/COD







#### **NEW ADDRESS ASSIGNMENT / UPDATE**

New Address(es) Assigned

17225 GLACIER HWY

Address requested by owner prior to building permit application. Address of 17225 GLACIER HWY assigned to vacant parcel for Driveway permit.

Ray Bond. future single family residence.

Mail To:

JOHN H NORMAN NANCY NORMAN PO BOX 210144 AUKE BAY AK 99821

Case Number:

[2005080] ADR20140051

Date Address Assigned:

July 25, 2014

Parcel Code Number:

8-B34-0-102-005-0

Legal Description:

USS 3267 LT 54 FR

Assigned By:

Quinn\_Tracy

Current Property Owner:

JOHN H NORMAN

Building Permit Number:

Dending

Date Printed:

July 25, 2014

All Addresses Assigned to Parcel

- 17225 GLACIER HWY

Date Created

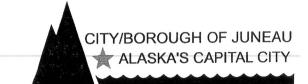
July 25, 2014

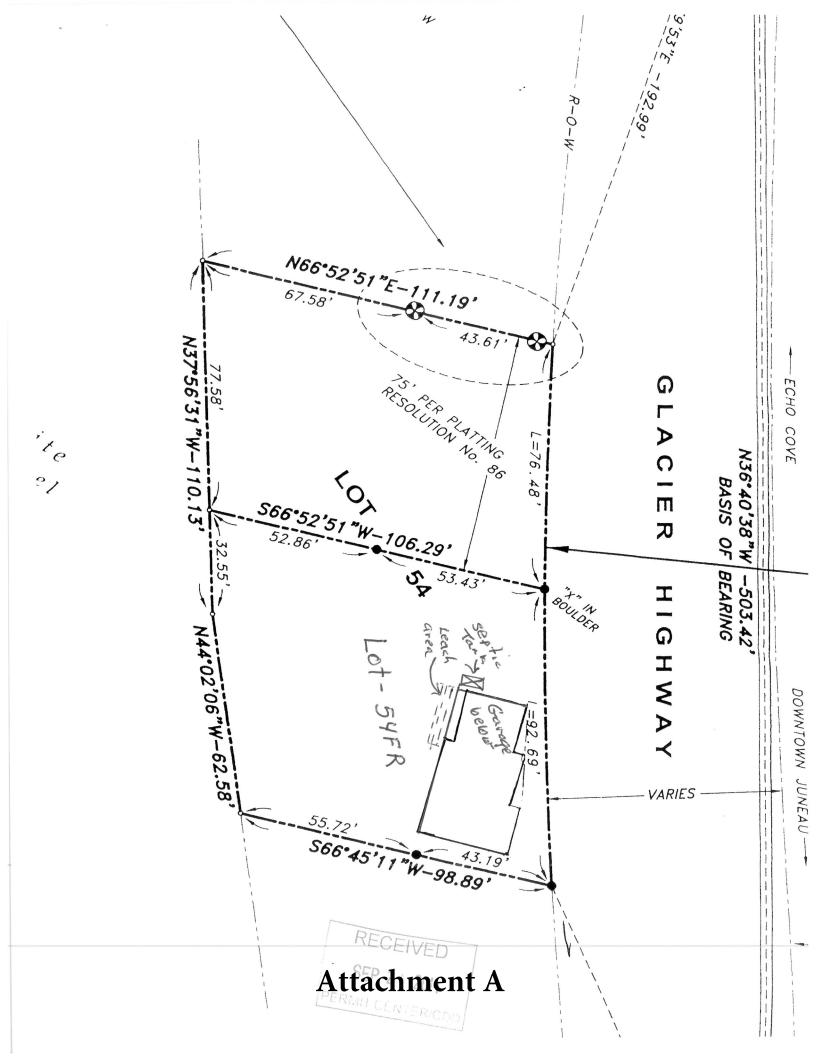
Date Retired

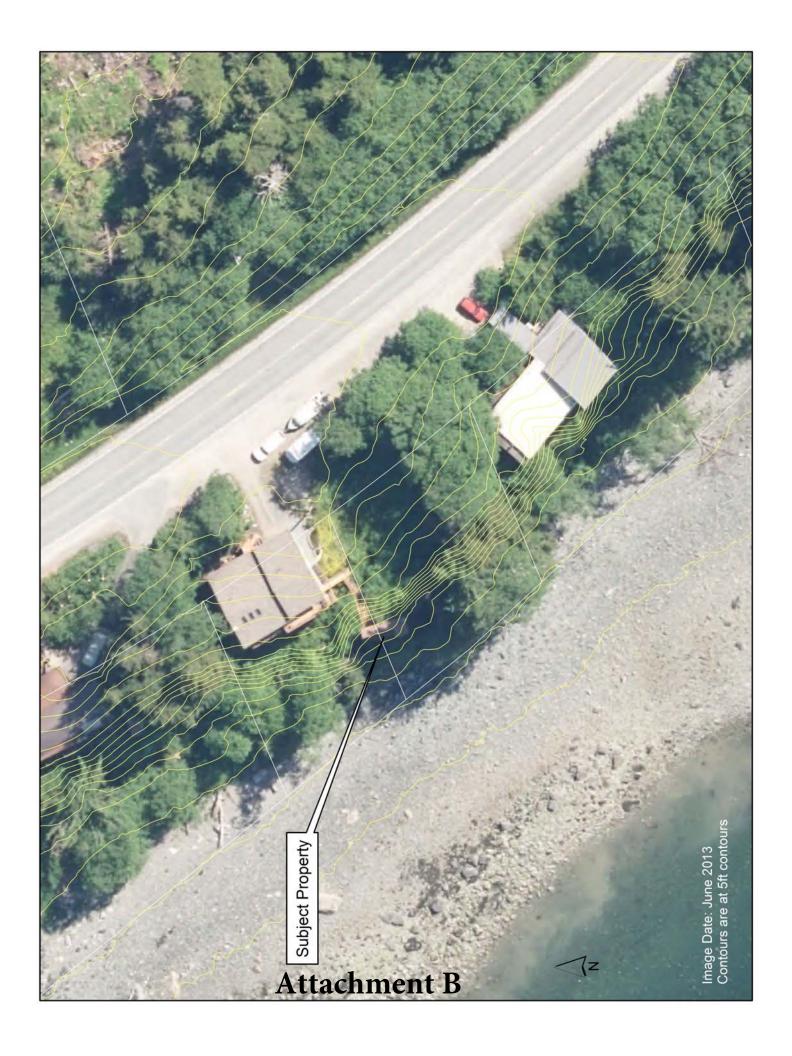
If you have questions contact Quinn Tracy at 907-586-0762 or quinn\_tracy@ci.juneau.ak.us

CC: Property Owner CBJ Assessors, Police, Fire AEL&P U.S. Postal Service

**ACS** 











From: <u>Heidemann, Marie E (DOT)</u>

To: Beth McKibben

Cc: Epstein, David B (DOT); Schmidt, Joanne M (DOT); Buck, Joseph T (DOT); Hughes, Andrew N (DOT); Patz.

Gregory D (DOT); Gray, Scott J (DOT); Davis, Randal V (DOT)

Subject: RE: Request for comments - VAR2014 0020 Date: Monday, November 24, 2014 10:05:18 AM

Beth,

Although Southcoast Region has a current and active design project (67564-JNU-Glacier HWY Pavement Rehabilitation Lena PT To Tee Harbor), the road corridor per the 1989 ROW Map "F-093-3(3)" is being held as right-of-way for this project, and the Department's current construction plan will not affect this property by easement, temporary construction easement, or fee-simple action. The Department has no objection to the applicant's request for a variance allowing for a 5' setback, but the applicant should be made aware that no encroachments on State ROW will be tolerated. Furthermore, any parking deck, carport or garage structures should be constructed to ensure that vehicles are not backing out into the roadway, and that there is adequate room for a turn around, such as hammerhead.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Marie Heidemann Transportation Planner State of Alaska DOT&PF - Southcoast Region Phone: (907)-465-1775

----Original Message-----

From: Beth McKibben [mailto:Beth.McKibben@juneau.org]

Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 3:48 PM

To: Charlie Ford; Ron King; Heidemann, Marie E (DOT); Ed Foster; Dan Jager; Dave Crabtree; Kyan Reeve; 'Ken Huddlestun'; Samantha Stoughtenger; 'Page W. Decker'; Patricia deLaBruere; Greg Chaney; Darrell Wetherall (Darrell.Wetherall@aelp.com); eric.eriksen@aelp.com

Subject: Request for comments - VAR2014 0020

Please find attached an application for a variance to the front yard setback at 17225 Glacier Highway. Please return any comments or concerns you may have by the end of the day on December 1.

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

APP VAR20140020.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.