

**CHESHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009 AT 7:30 A.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOMS 207 / 209**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Brian Miller, Justin Adinolfi, Lelah Campo (arrived at 7:40 a.m.), Bea Fiorino, Kathleen Gannon and Richard Kaplan

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

None

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

The roll was called.

**III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 21, 2009 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION** by Mr. Adinolfi that the minutes from the April 21, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission be accepted as presented. **SECONDED** by Ms. Fiorino

VOTE: In Favor – Adinolfi, Fiorino, Gannon, Kaplan and Miller  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were assorted news articles included in this meeting's packet for Commissioners to review.

## **VII. BUSINESS**

### A) Presentation Re: Bovano of Cheshire

Unfortunately, a representative from Bovano of Cheshire was able to attend today's Economic Development Commission meeting.

### B) Meetings with Cheshire companies

Mr. Sitko suggested inviting David Drescher of Drescher Insurance to a future Economic Development Commission meeting. Commissioners agreed that if he were interested, they would like to invite Jim Flood of Bovano of Cheshire to another Commission meeting.

### C) Discussion Re: Proposed Capacity Fee for Connection to Sanitary Sewer System

Mr. Sitko reported that at Chairman Miller's suggestions the Public Works Department collected some data from other surrounding towns regarding their capacity and sewer connection fees. Commissioners all agreed that the way the information was put together, it was difficult to review. It was therefore suggested that a sample building, maybe 10,000 square feet, be used as an example and based upon the set size a comparison of the different towns' data could be done.

Mr. Sitko stated that Mr. Dennis Dievert, Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, believes the proposed capacity fee in Cheshire will be on the low to medium side of the range.

It was noted that the WPCA has already closed their Public Hearing on this matter. They will be meeting at the end of May and Mr. Sitko was uncertain if the proposed connection fee would be voted on at that meeting.

Mr. Adinolfi commented that due to all the variables between towns, maybe the connection fee is not an issue for a developer but agrees that they need to go through the exercise for a comparison example.

#### D) West Main Street Commercial Area Streetscape Improvements Project Update

Mr. Adinolfi reported that the West Main Street Commercial Area Streetscape Improvements Subcommittee is working on making some revisions, per State of Connecticut Department of Transportation suggestions, to its plans for crossing West Main Street using an island of refuge. This revision will affect the streetscape plans for the area as well and the Committee is still hopeful to bid some of the project this Summer, after the Department of Transportation approves the revised plans. It was noted that the culvert project, extension of the Linear Trail and streetscape work is all tied in together. Mr. Sitko commented that the 10 year lawsuit between the Town and Dalton Enterprises was recently settled, which will allow for the Linear Trail to be extended north from Cornwall Avenue toward West Main Street.

#### E) Strategic Work Plan / Focus Group Meetings

Chairman Miller reported that there was a meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> of the Strategic Work Plan Committee to develop a strategy and select the first focus group, which will be home based businesses. Mr. Sitko would like to coordinate a date in mid June for the first focus group meeting. The Committee has developed a list of questions already and hopes to get 8 to 12 participants for the focus group. They would also like to use an audiotape for each session so that a summary could be created and distributed to all participants. Information on the focus groups will be added to the Town and Chamber of Commerce web sites. It was also suggested that members of the Economic Development Commission should try to coordinate their attendance at the different sessions so that there are only a couple at each one because they do not want to intimidate the focus groups.

#### F) Liaison Reports

Ms. Fiorino commented that the Town Beautification Committee has recently filled the barrels in the center of Town and are working on a landscape plan for the back of the Cheshire Public Library. There are 5 Adopt a Spot location in Town again this year; the program is starting up again now and will run until the Fall. If the Town budget allows, the Town Beautification Committee is working on a plan to improve the plantings near the Town Hall entrance.

#### H) Coordinator's Report

Mr. Sitko reported that Arthur Hostage has officially submitted his letter of resignation for the Economic Development Commission to the Town Clerk. He also reported that WS Development was recently granted a 1-year extension from the Planning and Zoning Commission on their Site Plan approval.

Commissioners talked about some pending Bills at the Connecticut General Assembly that may have a negative effect on Connecticut businesses. Mr. Sitko suggested that

a joint letter from the Economic Development Commission and Chamber of Commerce be drafted to let our State Leaders know that now is not the time to raise taxes for businesses. Ms. Campo stated that she agreed and that the letter should also state that they are concerned about putting an additional burden on businesses in Connecticut. Chairman Miller added that the letter should express concern in general and not be too specific about any one Bill.

Mr. Sitko noted that Lane Construction has approached him looking for a Community Project they can get involved with in Town.

Mr. Sitko reported that a noise complaint has been lodged against Consolidated Industries, of Mixville Road, with the State Department of Environmental Protection by a nearby residential neighbor. Consolidated Industries is a good company and trying hard to address the concerns raised, according to Mr. Sitko.

Ciampi Tax and Financial Services, who has approximately 12 employees, would like to build a 2,000 square foot addition to their location on Waterbury Road, near the Waterbury town line.

Mr. Sitko reported that Elizabeth Esty would like to set up a meeting with the local growers to discuss how some proposed Legislative Bills might affect them. Mr. Sitko has provided her with a list and will let the Economic Development Commission members know if a meeting is set up, as this is the growers' busy time of year right now.

Yankee Gas is in the conceptual stages of a possible \$6 million gas line expansion project that would run through parts of Cheshire. If this project goes forward it could help with future growth in Town by increasing its capacity potential.

#### I) Other

Commissioners reviewed the May 9<sup>th</sup> letter to Mr. Sitko from Jim Flood of Bovano of Cheshire regarding the new State / Cheshire requirement that businesses in an Aquifer Zone need to be registered with the Town. Mr. Sitko explained the history of the Aquifer Protection Act with regards to Cheshire and the State of Connecticut. The Town is now required to track down businesses in Aquifer Zones so that they can be "registered". The fee to be registered is still under consideration but Chairman Miller proposed that the fee be waived for at least the first year, as long as the businesses do their part and register with the Town. Mr. Sitko noted that the Ordinance Committee would be meeting tonight and the fee may be discussed at that meeting, ultimately though the Town Council will decide and approve any fees. It was noted that the Town Council would also be the ones to decide if any fees could be waived. Mr. Sitko noted that approximately 10 businesses, of the just over 40 businesses solicited, have registered so far, including Bovano of Cheshire.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Adinolfi to adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.; **SECONDED** by Ms. Gannon.

**VOTE:** In Favor – Adinolfi, Campo, Fiorino, Gannon, Kaplan and Miller  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 6 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary