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Town of Seymour
Economic Development Commission

Minutes
Tuesday, June 5, 2012 – 6:30 PM
Flaherty Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members present: Jon Szuch, Rosalie Averill, Ted Holly, Michael Horbal and Marietta Sabetta.

Members absent: Ron Balabon, Kathleen Conroy-Cass

Also present: Fred Messore, Economic Development Director, Maryanne DeTullio, Recording Secretary

ITEM #1 Call Meeting to Order
Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM #2 Pledge of Allegiance
Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM #3 First Selectman Comments
First Selectman Kurt Miller was not present.

ITEM #4 Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2012 Meeting.
Mr. Holly moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sabetta and carried unanimously (4-0).

Item #5 Economic Development Director's Report – Fred Messore
Mr. Messore presented his report. He stated that Thule has submitted the first application for the tax incentive program and he will be speaking at the Board of Selectmen's meeting this evening regarding that application. .

He stated that he toured the Housatonic Wire site once the demolition permit was pulled. He stated that all town departments are overseeing the work and Phase I is almost complete. He stated that Phase 2 is the rear building. A structural review had to be done and notice was received that it passed that review. He stated that the work should be completed within a couple of months.

Mr. Messore stated that he attended many departmental meetings in town. He stated that he met with Dennis Rozum and CTDOT on stripping of parking spaces along Main Street. He stated that they may have come up with a few more spaces in the downtown area. He stated that there was some concern about the spaces near the Post Office because of the required width of spaces and those did not meet that required width. Mr. Messore stated that he is the Seymour representative to the Valley Transit District and they offer a lot of services that senior citizens could use.

Mr. Messore stated that he met with a prospective tenant for tri-town plaza but he cannot discuss any details in public at this time. He stated that he met with Tom

Eighmie to get the public service message out regarding the action meeting that was held at the Middle School. He stated that there was a good turnout at the meeting and the report is due in July.

He stated that he met with Bill McCreary who is opening an auto dealer and repair facility for antique cars on New Haven Road. He stated that he met with the First Selectman regarding the tax incentive plan and the Thule application. Thule will be doing a major renovation to their facility. They will be appearing before the Board of Selectmen to receive approval of their application. The proposed renovations should generate additional jobs.

Mr. Messore stated that he attended the Building Committee meeting and an inventory of several buildings is being done. He stated that there are funds for an needs assessment study. He stated that he met with the owner of 100 Bank Street and at this time he has not interest in purchasing the adjacent property. He stated that the property at 300 Bank Street has been sold to a dentist and the building is in the process of being renovated and should be done by the end of June.

He stated that he attended the CEDAS meeting which was held in Stamford and they toured the Stamford Harbor Point Project.

Mr. Messore stated the town's budget was approved in the last referendum. He stated that in our budget before the end of this fiscal year any funds remaining have to be returned to the general fund. He stated that he does not have any projects remaining but there is a landscaping plan for the front of town hall. He stated that he has not seen the plans but they are estimating the project will cost approximately $5,000.00 and any remaining funds could go toward that project. Mr. Szuch stated that he would recommend that the balance in the Commission budget be used for a bench at the Broad Street Park in memory of Joe Cass, who was a long time Commission member. Ms. Sabetta moved that the Chairman be authorized to spend up to $600.00 for a bench at Broad Street Park in memory of Joseph Cass, long time Commission member, from the EDC budget in the current fiscal year that will expire by June 30, 2012 from board secretary fees in the amount of $200.00; education and seminars in the amount of $175.00; communications and telephones in the amount of $200.00 and other purchase services in the amount of $32.55. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Averill and carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Horbal abstaining.

ITEM #6 Public Comments
Howard Enquist, Derby Avenue stated that he attended the action meeting and felt that there are limited buildings in the downtown area. He stated that a lot could be done to improve the town but it cannot be made the way some people felt that it could be. He felt that more should be done to promote Seymour. He felt that more events could be held in the downtown area to promote the town and bring people into the area. Mr. Horbal stated that he did not attend the meeting but heard that only one downtown business owner was present. He asked if the members felt that the meeting accomplished its goals. Mr. Messore stated that it was very well attended and a lot of good comments were made. He stated that he agrees that there should be more public events in the downtown area. He stated that the report from Planimetrics

will be ready in July.

Mr. Messore stated that bid was advertised for sign companies for the sign grant that was received. He stated that two bids were received and they will be open at the Board of Selectmen's meeting this evening. He stated that he hopes that a bid will be accepted so that he could begin working with the company on a conceptual design. He also stated that he has been asked to work on the adopt-a-sign program. He stated that the guidelines for the program are being reviewed by town counsel.

Mr. Horbal asked about Joe Migani's proposed project and Mr. Messore stated that he has not heard anything further on that.

ITEM #7 – EDC Chairman's Report
Mr. Szuch stated that the Commission budget was seriously cut by the Board of Finance and he did not see how the Commission could accomplish anything with the funds that they were allocated. He stated that there are six more meetings between now and the end of the year. He stated that he finds it insulting to the Commission to have the budget at such a low amount. The Commission has accomplished a lot and with the budget for next fiscal it will be very difficult to do anything. He felt that the members should consider this and discuss it at the July meeting. He stated that the members need to decide if they want to continue to meet and try and do things with the amount of money that was budgeted. Mrs. Averill felt that when the original presentation was made to the Board of Finance it was well received. She asked if Mr. Szuch received advance notice of the budget cuts and he stated that he did not. Mrs. Averill asked if it would be wrong to convey the Commission's thoughts and frustrations to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen regarding the budget. Mr. Szuch stated that the members could decide not to meet on a monthly basis and have the meetings only a few times a year. This will be further discussed at the July meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Horbal, seconded by Mrs. Averill and carried unanimously (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne DeTullio