

East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2017

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; R. Parady; S. Smith; K. Staehly
Absent: J. Albuquerque; P. Rubenbauer; F. Weissbach
Guests: None

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. He sat Ms. Smith for Mr. Weissbach.

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the June 1, 2017 meeting.

MS. SMITH MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2017 REGULAR MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

1. **EDC Chairman Update**

A. EDC Coordinator Position – Mr. Casner reported that First Selectman Lyman has put a hold on the EDC Coordinator position until the Town's budget is finalized. In response to a question from Mr. Parady, Mr. Casner confirmed that Haddam has hired Susan Wade as their part-time EDC Coordinator.

2. **First Selectmen's Report** – Mr. Lyman was not in attendance at this meeting, consequently, no report was made.

3. **Goodspeed Landing Committee** – Mr. Casner reported that the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee (EHVRC) had received a report/quote for the cost to drill a waterline under the CT River. He noted that the estimate ranges from \$364,000 to \$1.64M if the water company has to drill through ledge. There was a general discussion regarding the composition of the floor of the CT River and the value of public water vs. well water.

Mr. Casner stated that the report/quote is useful in that it represents a shovel-ready project if EDC is able to identify funding for the project. He noted that Haddam received a significant grant to run a public waterline from Chester to Tylerville, an area that they would like to develop.

4. **Agriculture Committee** – Mr. Staehly reported that the Agriculture Committee met to consider whether or not to draft an ordinance regarding citizens' accommodation of large animals. He noted that, due to the complexity and level of interest in the issue, the Committee tabled its discussion and will reconvene on July 10th at the Old Town Hall for further discussion and public input.

5. **Tourism Committee**

A. Fall Weekend – Mr. Staehly reported that East Haddam has set October 7th and 8th, Columbus Day weekend, as the dates for its Fall Weekend. In response to his request, Mr. Bergeron and Ms. Smith agreed to participate on a sub-committee to plan the weekend. Mr. Casner advised that he expected the Essex Steam Train would provide a shuttle bus for the weekend but agreed that a back-up plan would be prudent.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **2017/2018 EDC Budget Changes** – Mr. Staehly advised that he had submitted a letter to the Agriculture and EDC chairpersons, and cc'd the Board of Finance and First Selectman Lyman, with suggestions on specific budget cuts for their boards. He noted that the Ag Commission had agreed with, and implemented his suggestion. The EDC commissioners discussed his suggestion regarding their budget. Mr. Casner noted that, since EDC had not expended much of its consulting funds, the Commission would be returning approximately \$46,000.00 to the General Fund. He further noted, that the consulting budget line had been reduced in the 2017/2018 proposed budget.

MOTION MADE BY MS. SMITH, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO ACCEPT THE 2017/2018 EDC BUDGET AS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN. In response to a question raised by Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Casner provided clarification on one of the budget lines and the motion passed with a UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner noted that he will ask the Finance Director to escrow approximately \$15,000.00 of EDC's 2016/2017 budget to pay for the environmental work on the old garage located on the Town Office site (\$10,000.00) and the sidewalk design and consulting work for the Routes 151 and 82 intersection (\$5,000.00).

There was a general discussion about identifying and prioritizing projects to take full advantage of the funds allocated to EDC in the 2017/2018 budget.

2. Mail Received – With the exception of Mr. Staehly's letter regarding a possible reduction to the EDC 2017/2018 budget, which is reported on in the above minutes, no additional mail was discussed at the meeting.

3. Pay Bills – Mr. Casner advised Mr. Weaver had submitted a bill for surveying work done at the Routes 151 and 82 intersection.

MOTION MADE BY MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. STAEHLY, TO PAY ROBERT WEAVER \$1,500.00 FOR SURVEYING WORK. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. Review Report from Roger Nemergut Consulting on Public Water Borings Cost Under CT River – This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the minutes above under Old Business – Status Reports, item 3 - Goodspeed Landing Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment at the meeting.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. BERGERON MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary