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**Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2013**

Attending: J. Albuquerque; R. Casner; D. Mathiasen; R. Parady; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator), F. Weissbach
Guests: A. Jansky, J. Jansky, Sr.; J. Jansky, Jr.; S. Wheeler

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the November 7, 2013 meeting.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Simmons reviewed several points in his report, a copy of which is attached to and made part of these minutes. Mr. Casner suggested including an expansion of the sidewalks in the Village in the current or an upcoming STEAP Grant application. In response to a question, Mr. Simmons reported that he had completed his work on the Village crosswalk mobility project and that the Public Works Director would be working with the CT DOT to put the project out to bid.

There was a general discussion regarding the need for additional Bed & Breakfasts in town and the possibility of listing several properties currently up for sale on the CERC Site Finder. Mr. Simmons stated that the Site Finder is used more for marketing commercial/industrial properties. Mr. Casner asked Mr. Simmons to review pertinent regulations for establishing a B&B.

MR. ALBUQUERQUE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE THE DISCUSSION ON THE COMMERCIAL USE OF THE TRANSFER STATION UP AS THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Commercial Use of Transfer Station for Municipal Solid Waste – Mr. Casner provided some background on the issue and noted that he represented EDC on the sub-committee charged with making a recommendation on the use of the Transfer Station by commercial haulers. He reported that the sub-committee will be making a recommendation in the near future about whether or not to change the Town ordinance which allows the commercial haulers to dump trash at Transfer Station. He asked for the Commissioners input on the issue.

Mr. Parady stated that he felt it took an unnecessarily long time to repair the hopper but noted that the engineer has now given it a “clean bill of health” for commercial use. Mr. Casner stated that it is his understanding that, although the engineer had stated that the repairs have been completed to his specifications and the hopper is in serviceable condition, he felt that continued use by the commercial haulers will considerably shorten the lifespan of the hopper.

There was a general discussion about whether or not the hopper would remain in good condition if it is operated properly and maintained regularly. Mr. Albuquerque and Mr. Parady expressed concern about the impact on local haulers if they have to take their loads to Willimantic for dumping.

Mr. Casner opened the discussion to the public and Mr. Jansky, Sr. stated that he felt that the hopper and compactor could be operated in a more efficient manner that would reduce wear on the machinery. In response to a question from Mr. Weissbach, Mr. Jansky, Jr. stated that he estimated it cost their business an additional \$5,000.00 over the 5 months they had to drive their loads to the Willimantic facility.

Mr. Casner stated that he feels there are two possible solutions: (1) continue to allow the commercial haulers to use the Town’s Transfer Station but encourage better management and regular maintenance of the hopper, or (2) join CRRA and the commercial haulers could bring their loads to the Essex facility. The Janskys agreed; however, they stated that the first option is preferable.

Mr. Albuquerque stated he felt the commercial haulers should be included in the meetings regarding any recommendation for use of the Transfer Station. Ms. Mathiasen asked Mr. Casner to see if the EDC Commissioners could review the draft

recommendation prior to it being submitted to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Weissbach suggested inviting the sub-committee and the Public Works Director to the next EDC meeting to present their reasoning for wanting to discontinue use of the Transfer Station by commercial haulers.

Shagbark Solar Panel Project – Mr. Simmons stated that the project to install solar panels on the Shagbark building has become very complex and that there is a short timeline to resolve the issues. He outlined the issues and suggested that Mr. Casner work with Mr. Walter to call a special meeting of Planning & Zoning and the Inland Wetlands Commission and to facilitate a resolution to the outstanding issues. He also suggested they schedule a walk-thru to validate the list of concerns. There was a general discussion about why there is a need for a Special Exception approval. Mr. Casner stated he would coordinate the meetings and Mr. Weissbach volunteered to also participate in the meetings.

First Selectman Update – There was no update on this agenda item since Mr. Walter was not in attendance at the meeting.

Sewer Extension Feasibility Evaluation Rte. 82/151 – There was no update on this agenda item.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Business Association is considering coordinating a Taste of East Haddam in March to replace the Chowder Cook-Off. She noted that the Business Association Board would be presenting the idea to the membership at their next meeting and she would have more details at EDC's January meeting.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

Directory Signs – There was no update on this agenda item.

Chowder Cook-Off Event – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the minutes above under the East Haddam Business Association agenda item.

Ideas for EDC Business Assistance – Norwich Road Closure – This agenda item was tabled for discussion at the January meeting.

I-Park Overview – 2014 Plans – Ms. Mathiasen reported that I-Park's recent open house was a successful event and that the owner has expressed a desire to become more involved with the Town. She provided an overview of the Park's programs and stated that she will assist them with publicity. She stated that there are extensive walking trails on the Park's grounds with artwork by resident artists displayed along the paths. She stated that the owners are considering opening the trails to the public in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Overview of the Local Bid Ordinance – Mr. Simmons distributed a summary he had drafted of Mr. Carpenter's recommendations to encourage use of local businesses on municipal projects. He advised that he has not yet discussed the subject with Mr. Walter and would also like to get the Town's attorney's opinion on the propriety of the clause promoting the use of local businesses and tradespeople in the Town's bid documents. He stated he would have more information on this topic at EDC's January meeting.

Town Economic Development Strategy & Proposed Professional Projects - This agenda item was tabled for discussion at the January meeting.

EDC Ordinance – This agenda item was tabled for discussion at the January meeting.

Mail Received – There was no mail discussed at the meeting.

Public Comment/Other – There was no additional public comment at the meeting. Mr. Weissbach reported that a fundraiser for Ray of Light Farm was held at the Franklin Academy and approximately 85 people attended.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. PARADY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. RUCKER, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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