

**Town of Cromwell
Economic Development Commission**

Regular Meeting
6:30pm Thursday, March 19, 2015
Room 224/5 Cromwell Town Hall

Minutes and Record of Votes

Present: Chairman Dick Nobile, Robert Jahn, Jay Polke, Joe Fazekas, Stanley Stachura,

Also Present: Town Planner Stuart Popper, Town Council Liaisons Al Waters (arrived 6:51pm)

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by Chairman Nobile
2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates
The above members were noted.
3. Approval of Agenda

A **motion** was made by Robert Jahn and **seconded** by Stanley Stachura to approve the agenda. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

4. Public Comments
5. New Business

Mr. Popper said that the State issued the Brown Fields Grant again. He said I found the original Phase 1 environmental assessment and contacted the company. They said it would be around \$25,000 for a Phase 2. He said we will submit for Phase 2 of Frisbie Park but we will get bids as required by the State.

A **motion** was made by Joseph Fazekas and **seconded** by Robert Jahn to endorse the grant submission for Phase 2 of Frisbie Park. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

6. Town Planners Report

Mr. Popper reviewed new applications submitted as outlined on the EDC report for March.

There was a discussion on the GKN visit and Chairman Nobile and Mr. Fazekas both said they would like to go. Mr. Popper said he will see what he can arrange.

Mr. Popper said the Downtown Merchants are planning the car show and Mrs. Terry is collecting nominations for the veterans. He said the Veterans will have a tent at the car show and they also added bikes to the show. Mr. Popper said they are also planning a Farmer's Market at Frisbie Park starting in June.

7. Economic Developers Report

Mr. Popper said that X-pect is closing and the management company is looking for a tenant. He said they were very vague with a closing date. He said Pet Sense is going in Cromwell Commons and they

are looking for tenants near the Nardelli side. He also said the sushi place is going in and there will be a new restaurant near the Well. He said that the Chevron Corp is responsible for cleaning up the Tank Farm so they got a Wetlands permit and are moving forward with that. He said they are keeping \$300,000 from Dead Man's swamp for Cromwell Landing Park and a handicap accessible pier. He said they will go out to bid soon and it will probably take a year or so to get permits. Mr. Popper said the Downtown Merchant's purchased banner holders last year and CL & P is installing them for free on the telephone poles. Mr. Popper said he is getting the frames rebuilt for the Traveler's signs. He said I will get figures for more signs for our next meeting but I think we are OK with what we have. He said we need to find secure locations for the signs.

8. Old Business

a. North Tier STEAP Grant

Mr. Popper said that this went out to bid and they received 4-5 that were not qualified. He said they will select from what they have received and announce soon. He said the goal is to start this summer.

b. New STEAP Grant Application

He said the first tier was announced and we didn't get it. He said we will see what happens in the 2nd tier but I am not hopeful since we have almost \$1million left from the first grant. Mr. Popper said he has meet with the other property owners up there. There was a discussion on the signs that were at the end of the road and how they can clean them up. Mr. Polke suggested putting a refreshed temporary sing there to clean it up. Mr. Popper said he will look at the signs and see where the construction will be.

9. Communications: (see attached P & Z minutes)

10. Chairman's Comments/Commissioner's Comments –

Chairman Noble said that we are moving in the right direction with the Redevelopment Commission and it is progressing very well thanks to Mr. Popper. Mr. Polke said that Mr. Popper should receive recognition for helping obtain approval for the Safe Home Security in one shot. He said that is a big hit for Cromwell. Chairman Nobile said they still own in Middletown and I am surprised they are asking for improvements. He asked about tax abatements. Mr. Popper said he will ask them to come to the April or May meeting and get your endorsement and we will then go to the Town Council. He said he knows that Cromwell Commons is thrilled with the approval and this is great news for them.

There was a discussion on tax abatements and Middletown. Mr. Popper said they will fill the whole building and he is not worried about them staying.

Mr. Jahn said he read an article about Berlin checking on blight areas. He said that once it is approved it was going to be published in the newspaper. He said we need to make ours more active. Mr. Popper said he knows that Mr. Bell and the Chief are reviewing but I don't know too much about it. Mr. Jahn said there is a barn at 100 Court Street that is falling down. He said the Council is imposing a fee for the use of the transfer station and we will end up seeing a lot more appliances and garbage on the side of the road. Mr. Popper suggested he attend a Town Council meeting. Mr. Waters said he agrees with Mr. Jahn and so does the Chief. Chairman Nobile asked where this came from. Mr. Waters said the previous Town Manager hired a consultant who gave a presentation. He said that someone put a bug in his ear that we could get money like the rest of the towns do. Chairman Nobile said I am trying to understand the rationale. Mr. Jahn said the Chief frequently asks his staff to take pictures on trash by I-91 and then the town crew goes to pick it up.

Mr. Stachura asked how many people are moving in to the new Safe Home office. He said we could give a tax incentive for jobs given to local people. Mr. Popper said we need to move forward with what we have, there is not time to wait, but that is a great idea for future changes. Mr. Stachura said that little things we have done has shown us positively to other companies.

Mr. Polke said the overpass near the Crowne Plaza looks like it is rusting away and looks really bad. Mr. Popper said he can look at the state's painting schedule.

Mr. Polke asked about the Phase 2 on the riverfront and whether cars can park in that area. Mr. Popper said he wasn't sure since it drops off. Mr. Polke asked about the sewer outlet on River Road and if it was being cleaned up. Mr. Popper said they are working on it. Mr. Polke also asked about some non-conforming uses clarification.

11. Approval of Minutes

a. February 19, 2015

A **motion** was made by Robert Jahn and **seconded** by Stanley Stachura to approve the minutes of February 19, 2015. *Robert Jahn, Stanley Stachura, Jay Polke approved; Chairman Nobile and Joseph Fazekas abstained. The motion passed.*

12. Good and Welfare

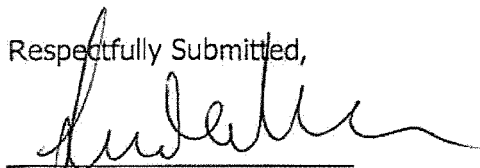
Mr. Waters said that Mr. Popper handled the Court Street/Shunpike issue properly and did an excellent job. He said it couldn't have been handled any better.

Mr. Popper said that the Redevelopment Commission will have a public hearing on April 15, 2015 and will come up with possible sites for redevelopment. He said the notice will be in the papers and he will email all Boards and Commissions.

13. Adjourn

A **motion** was made by Robert Jahn and **seconded** by Jay Polke to adjourn at 7:29 pm. *All were in favor; the motion was passed.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Imme
Recording Clerk