

**Town of Cromwell
Economic Development Commission**

Regular Meeting
6:30pm Thursday, January 15, 2015
Room 224/5 Cromwell Town Hall

Minutes and Record of Votes

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

Also Present: Town Planner Stuart Popper, Town Council Liaisons Al Waters

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Chairman Nobile

2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates

The above members were noted.

3. Approval of Agenda

A **motion** was made by Joe Fazekas and **seconded** by Jay Polke to approve the agenda. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

4. Public Comments

5. New Business

Mr. Popper said that they are looking to add \$10,000 to department expenses. He said this line includes the Expo, TPC and other events. He said they spent \$3,000 last year on the welcome to Cromwell sign which was the big expense last year. He asked for ideas from the Commissioners for other things they might want to do. He said he would like to join the CT Economic Development Association. He said they work out of the CERC office and do good things. He said it is \$150 to join and some other fees for me. He said they sponsor a multi commission training program which makes presentations to land use commissions in April to educate them on the EDC value. Mr. Fazekas said he wanted to clarify that we will spend \$1500 for the Expo, \$300 for the CT Economic Development Association, \$3,000 for the TPC/Signs and Down Merchant support is \$5,000. Mr. Popper said yes, and Mr. Fazekas said so we need to come up with concrete plans for \$5,000. Mr. Popper said yes. There was discussion on where the money for Mr. Poppers salary increase comes from as a result of him being named the Economic Development Coordinator and Mr. Popper said it does not come from the EDC budget. Mr. Popper said he would like to set the budget in stone at the February meeting. Chairman Nobile and Mr. Fazekas said they would not be here for the February meeting. Mr. Popper said we could always hold a special meeting if we had to. The Commissioners discussed buying a sign for Route 3 and Mr. Fazekas said an electronic one would be great. Chairman Nobile said that it would be too expensive. There was discussion on Expo ideas and getting a new display and brochures. He said they are always rushed the last few days before the expo. Chairman Nobile said this would create a better presence. Mr. Fazekas said I have a Remax display in my garage that I could donate and we could use the money for add-ons. Mr. Popper said I'll need pricing and Mr. Fazekas said he would look into.

6. Town Planners Report

7. Economic Developers Report

Mr. Popper referred to his EDC Report dated January 15, 2015. He reviewed the report and said that the town council approved the reuse of \$300,000 of STEAP Grant funds. He also said that the Discover Cromwell 2015 Guide was paid for by business advertising.

Mr. Popper said that the Town Council agreed to take back a piece of land that Gary Dayharsh forgot to give us when he created the subdivision on County Line. He said the Council did that in lieu of back taxes. Mr. Waters clarified that it was Vassel not Dayharsh who owned the land. Chairman Nobile said this has happened twice before in Cromwell. There was discussion on the cul de sac and Mr. Popper shared the details of the plan with the Commissioners.

Chairman Nobile said that Safe Home Security is still on the agenda in Middletown. Mr. Popper said I heard they are moving forward with the Planning and Zoning application in Cromwell. Chairman Nobile said the applicant postponed both Board of Finance and Town Councils meetings in Middletown. Mr. Waters said they made a good presentation at the Wetlands meetings and the Commission voted all yes's. Mr. Popper said we are working with them and it will be their call in the end. He said that Planning and Zoning is only a site plan approval not a Public Hearing and it is not really a debatable issue. He said they know what they are doing. He said I will be here for tax abatement if Planning and Zoning approves so be ready. He said we will then go to the Town Council for approval. He said they will have to go to the state for a traffic permit but there is not much you can do at that intersection. Mr. Popper said traffic isn't that bad.

Mr. Popper said they will be going out for bid for the road improvements to the Northern Tier the last week of January. He said we will work closely with businesses so they always have access and all work will be done on the South Side. He said the road widening starts behind the first lot and will to the transfer station and new cul de sac. He said we don't need any permission from any land owners for this. Mr. Popper said this phase is the widening of the road, the construction of the cul de sac and the extension of utilities. He said the cost of these projects is \$870,000 He said the next STEAP grant will allow us to bring the road further. Mr. Popper showed a map of the concept plan and eventual goal of the project. Chairman Nobile said this was our original plan.

8. Old Business

a. North Tier STEAP Grant

b. New STEAP Grant Application

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

Mr. Popper said that Mr. Snow has submitted an application for 192 Shunpike Road and they will close the public hearing next week but not vote on it until the February 3, 2015 meeting. He said there are some major issues for landscape buffers. He said they should be 50 feet from the nearest residence but they are 17 feet. He said they can move the driveway but it would take away another lot he has.

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

Chairman Nobile said he will be away January 28th through March 11th. Mr. Popper said we will brainstorm and come up with ideas and figures for the booth.

11. Approval of Minutes

a. November 20 , 2014

A **motion** was made by Joe Fazekas and **seconded** by Robert Jahn to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

12. Good and Welfare

Mr. Fazekas said the new Redevelopment Agency was formed and the first meeting was held. He said we are moving it to the third Wednesday of the month so the next one will be February 18, 2015. He said we need to come up with a master plan and try to obtain Phase II funding for the waterfront. He said we will also look at projects on Route 372 and the Northern Tier as well. Mr. Waters suggested they ask for some of the \$100,000 coming from Middletown for seed money. Mr. Fazekas said even half would be great. He said the Agency is looking for transparency, public comments and ideas.

Mr. Jahn asked if Mr. Polke had discussed the river clean up. Mr. Polke said he plans to soon and Mr. Jahn said he would help. Mr. Popper said the Downtown Merchants will propose signs at the end of the exit ramp towards the historic riverfront and downtown. He also discussed the plans for a new handicap accessible fishing pier.

Mr. Jahn asked about the Country Squire proposal and Mr. Popper said it was withdrawn but they are revising and coming back with a new plan.

13. Adjourn

A **motion** was made by Robert Jahn and **seconded** by Jay Polke to adjourn at 7:31 pm. *All were in favor; the motion was passed.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Imme
Recording Clerk