

**Town of Cromwell
Economic Development Commission**

Regular Meeting
6:30pm Thursday, June 16, 2016
Room 219, Cromwell Town Hall

Minutes and Record of Votes

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

Absent: Stanley Stachura, Joseph Fazekas

Also Present: Stuart Popper, Director of Planning and Development

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nobile at 6:40pm.

2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates

The presence of the above members was noted.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Public Comments – none

5. New Business:

Mr. Popper said that the owner of Cobblestone Plaza asked us to draft a letter to pursue Starbucks to come there by offering tax abatement. Mr. Popper said he wants to know if this Commission will support abatement. He said we will try to expedite the application by showing the town is supporting the application. He said this Commission could ask for up to 7 years and 100% of abatement. Chairman Nobile asked about a letter for Advanced Auto and Mr. Popper said they haven't asked yet. He said the property is owned by Cobblestone but the applications are being submitted by the individual businesses. He said they are 2 separate entities. There was a discussion on Starbucks vs. Dunkin Donuts.

A **motion** was made by Jay Polke and **seconded** by Robert Jahn to strongly recommend a letter for abatement for Starbucks up to 7 years and 100%. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

Mr. Popper said he will receive an application next week for a retail site on the Milane's property which will be subdivided by two separate entities.

6. Director of Planning and Development's report

Mr. Popper handed out and reviewed his report dated May 25, 2016.

Mr. Popper also said that the car wash is trying to sell the land they purchased for \$2 million and the Cleaners are trying to sell for \$1 million.

7. New Business

a. Discussion of Trade Show Booth Display Materials

Mr. Popper said he will work with Mr. Polke on banner display units for the booth but they plan on buying 1 that is 6 feet wide and 2 that are 3 feet wide.

Mr. Popper also discussed that the Downtown Merchants Association has money set aside for signs. There was a discussion on what kind of signs and said they will have the specs done so they can buy them as they go. He said they will have to be designed to highway standards.

Mr. Polke said that the Nike site will be heard in Court this October. He said the Court has everything it needs. The judge has 4 months from October to make a decision and the environmental study went fine.

Mr. Jahn asked about the 8-24 referral for the Cromwell Fire District and Mr. Popper said it is just a formality for the Raymond Place project. Mr. Jahn also asked about the safe routes to school and Mr. Popper explained the program which encourages students to ride a bike or walk to school. This prompted a discussion on speed limit signs.

8. Old Business

a. Northern Tier STEAP Grant

Mr. Popper said there will possible be \$20,000-\$30,000 left over and will know after the final Engineering bill. Mr. Jahn asked about the land acquisition near Sysco and Mr. Popper said he only knows they are working on it. He said he knows that no funds were allocated for road improvements if the land is acquired but there is money set aside for the land. He said the road won't be widened and is complete. He said all the money is spent and they don't have to give any money back to the state.

There was a discussion on the possible budget cuts to state aid but Mr. Popper said the money for the river access study has already been allocated.

9. Communications: (see attached P & Z minutes, Redevelopment Agency Minutes)

10. Approval of Minutes

a. May 19, 2016

A **motion** was made by Robert Jahn and **seconded** by Jay Polke to approve the minutes of May 19, 2016. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

11. Good and Welfare

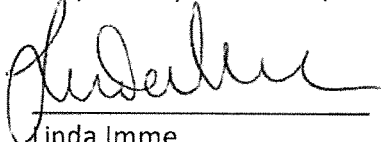
Mr. Popper said they will leave the meetings on the calendar and cancel July or August if we don't need them.

Mr. Jahn asked Mr. Popper if they could see his report before the town council and Mr. Popper said the report isn't for this Commission it is a report to the Town Council. Mr. Popper said he will make sure it is in the package and apologized that it was missing from this one.

12. Adjourn

A **motion** was made by Robert Jahn and **seconded** by Jay Polke to adjourn at 7:18pm. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Imme', written over a horizontal line.

Linda Imme
Recording Clerk