

KILLINGLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Special Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2015
Killingly Town Hall
Conference Room 102
172 Main Street
Killingly, CT



Dale Desmarais, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Roll Call:

Members Present were Dale Desmarais, Bill Cheng, Steven Gilbert and Mark Tillinghast. Kevin Cole and Rand Joly were absent with notification.

Others Present: John Hallbergh, Town Council Liaison; Lynn LaBerge, Town Councilor; Sean Hendricks, Town Manager; Elsie Bisset, Economic Development Director and Judy LaRoche, Recording Secretary.

Dale appointed Steven as a voting member.

2. Approval of Minutes: A **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 7, 2015 was made by Bill Cheng and **SECONDED** by Steven Gilbert. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR.**

3. Correspondence – None

4. Citizen's Participation – None

5. Unfinished Business

a) Economic Development Trust Fund – The beginning balance of the Trust Fund as of July 1, 2015 was \$253,579.78. Interest for July was \$15.08 and the ending balance was \$253,594.86.

b) Update of Projects – Elsie reported the following:

- A ribbon cutting was held on July 29th for Simply Orthodontics at 24 Putnam Pike
- Mural – some of the paint is peeling off; from dampness and we're trying to save it. The Town is responsible for the exterior. After the Bulletin article, Elsie received calls for donations of \$1,000 and \$500 the next day. Arlene Gauthier, will get more students together to repaint next spring.
- The Tiffany tribute mosaic is complete. That project was completed with a grant from the State and a donation from KBA and in-kind labor from the town.
- The planters, which were part of the sidewalk project, are in place. Mother Nature's Garden Group, coordinated by Linda Walden, did the planting.

- “Come to Killingly” Ads were placed in the Turnpike Buyer and the New England Real Estate Journal. Site requests come in through NECCOG.
- The Quinebaug Valley Manufacturing Center bids are going out soon and there will be a groundbreaking in the fall. Also, Manufacturing Week will take place in October.
- Elsie passed the Lake Breeze and Chat magazine around.
- CGI Communications is going around for advertising on the Town website. It will cost advertisers \$1000 for a link to their business website and up to \$5000 for a video that they film specifically for their business. \$\$ goes to CGI and the town doesn't pay anything or receive any money. GoCast is presently on our main page and we're hoping to put a video up soon.
- Elsie and Sean went to Bridgeport to see the fuel cell project by Fuel Cell Energy. It has a small footprint and the noise was minimal and they didn't need ear protection. Sean took noise level readings and it was louder near a truck than near one of the cells. Bill Cheng asked about the water condition after the process and Sean said it was clean and would be able to go to our treatment plant.
- Last month in the minutes we discussed the exit numbers on Interstate 395. The Killingly exits will be numbered 37, 38, 41 and 43. The preliminary plans show that the villages will still be named as they are now.
- EDC will be meeting with Town Council tonight at 7:00 PM. Elsie would like to go over the annual report of what's happened during the last fiscal year. Does anyone have anything to add? We should discuss that with Council and also to set some goals. What are your ideas going forward for goals? Dale reminded everyone that next month is voting for EDC officers and to let us know if you want to make any changes. We can also let Council know about the results from the Energy Seminar. It was very well attended. Tonight feel free to speak up with ideas. Downtown should be a priority and we just need to keep supporting local to keep businesses here. Discussion continued on the state of various local businesses.
- The power line project is moving along now and should probably be completed by fall.
- Elsie said that Council has authorized Sean to negotiate with Fuel Cell LLC. The present ordinance needs to be amended; as the power plant ordinance used \$200 million as a minimum project amount. We need to set another lower and more reasonable number. John Hallbergh said it will be on the agenda for next week. A **MOTION** was made to open up the floor to those present by Mark Tillinghast and **SECONDED** by Bill Cheng. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**. John Hallbergh said you don't want to put it too low and Sean Hendricks recommended we put it no lower than \$25 Million. We don't want to have to keep bringing the amount down every time there is a project. Right now we get about \$25,000 from the property and if they locate here, we'll get \$180,000 in taxes. Dale said that that piece of property is not conducive to truck traffic going in and out. John said he thinks that \$25M is a good threshold also. In the future, we should probably make the terms broader. Bill Cheng asked why not \$10M? Would it stop smaller businesses? Sean said we haven't had to deal with it since

1999 so we'll have to see. It could get changed in the future, but, right now, to deal with Fuel Cell, LLC, we can do this for now. The consensus of members present was to use \$25M.

- Mark Tillinghast said we need to stress education also in our goals.
- John asked if Dale has seen any interest from the bigger companies. Dale sees the interest, but, people have difficulty finding the time. Even the Chamber's Business Afterhours are not as well attended. Mark thinks we should concentrate on businesses that are going to be around a little longer. Medical, aviation, energy and food seem to be the present front runners.
- Dale's biggest goal is to help businesses stay here.

6. New Business - None

7. Liaison Reports:

- John said they're still working on the unity issue for the Town of Killingly.
- It's been submitted and approved that there will be one voting place in town – at the new high school.
- Council is trying to set up a meeting with the Borough – the political issues- to dissolve the borough.
- Dale asked about the police. John said there is a meeting on Thursday night. Meeting with Pomfret to see how they use their auxiliary police force. Hopefully, we can figure out how to hire constables and use them better. Hope to have a report by the end of the year, which is when the present constables are voted out by the charter change. It would also be part of the budget process for 2016.

8. Commission Member Reports:

- Open space did not meet, according to Bill Cheng.

9. Adjournment:

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Cheng to adjourn at 6:55 PM. It was **SECONDED** by Steven Gilbert. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaRoche
Recording Secretary