

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Dec. 16, 2010 – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr, Roger Tracy, Susan Thorner, Gloria Smith, Caroline D'Otreppe, alt. Brian Banak Absent: E. McAnaney
Also present: First Selectmen Tom Frenaye, Selectman Eileen Moncrief, and EDC Director Patrick McMahon

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes – Ms. Thorner moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 18 meeting; Mr. Tracy seconded. The minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None

Route #75 PDIP Area – Mr. McMahon noted that the Arcor Laser Services construction is going well. There is viable interest for lots in Mach One.

Bonding Update – First Selectman Tom Frenaye updated the Commission and noted the input from residents received at the Public Forum. There is public support for roads, fire trucks, and renovation of the Town Hall. There was strong sentiment not to put significant resources into an existing library when the results would not solve the long established needs for additional space and other improvement. The Board of Selectmen presented their Dec. 8 resolution “to recommend to the Board of Finance a Bond Package of \$15 million dollars, estimating approximately \$8 million dollars for a new Library, \$3 million for Roads and Drainage, \$2 million to renovate the Town Hall and \$2 million for Fire Apparatus with a final recommendation to come later. A second Public Forum will be held Jan. 4. The BOS believes that this is the time for the Town to approve several overdue capital projects for bonding, believes that we should not miss the present opportunity to finance capital improvements now when the cost for borrowing is at a low point. The Board of Finance discussed the Town’s ability to afford such a bonding package, the tax payers’ willingness to pay for them. The BOF will hold a Special Meeting Dec. 20, SVAA Facility, 7 p.m. to review a report detailing fiscal options and time frame for a proposed Bonding package. The BOS met Dec. 15, and it was voted that this bonding package would be taken to Referendum by the Board of Selectmen. If both boards approve the final bonding package, the BOS would call for a Town Meeting for late January, and if approved, there would be a referendum in late February. Mr. Frenaye thanked the EDC for their comments and suggestions presented at their last meeting.

Town Center Initiatives – Mr. McMahon reported that the feasibility study for a 30 feet wide road, thus converting Ffyer Place to a Town Road, estimated the cost to be \$125,000. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that Mr. McMahon issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for engineering services for the road. Funds for construction may be requested of ACCE.

Grant Initiatives – The Town has quotes for the window replacements in the Town Hall. Installation will be in the spring. The sidewalks in front of the Senior Housing are

complete. There is STEAP funding of \$200,000 for roof replacement of the Kent Memorial Library. There is \$250,000 of capital expenditure funds in the current budget, but additional funds would still be needed. The planned renovation and roof replacement may be adjusted in scale and in design.

BDL Update – Mr. McMahon noted that Suffield, East Granby, and Windsor Locks have approved the Airport Development Zone agreement; Windsor still has not signed the agreement. The approved legislation takes effect in 2011.

Director's Report - Mr. McMahon noted that the Agri-Science project is moving forward. It is anticipated that bids for the design will go out in February or March.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

EDC.MIN.DEC.16.2010