

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development

Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

July 8, 2010

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on July 8, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Sally Ward; Maureen Abrahamson; Brian Silvestro; Bruce Manasevit

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Don Peterson; Mattie Abrahamson

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Minutes:

The minutes of May 11, 2010 were approved.

CDBG/Consolidated Plan

Mr. Barnhart said he is finalizing the Consolidate Plan and expects it to be ready for publication by July 15. A notice will be published inviting public comment during the following 30 days. The final plan will be submitted to HUD by the middle of August.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart said the project is moving ahead with the contract for the infrastructure construction piece ready to be awarded by July 15, 2010. It will be submitted to the state for approval. He said intersection improvements in the area are currently being made as required by the state. There is a 480-day construction schedule, so the projects should be completed by the end of 2011. Mr. Barnhart said there would be overseers from different departments and interested partners monitoring the progress.

Commerce Drive Planning Study

Mr. Barnhart said Mr. Kooris met with the P & Z recently and made some revisions to the draft proposal. The commissioners wish to meet with the professional staff to discuss the draft language. There will be a public hearing in September. Mr. Penczer remarked that change in development does not happen in short order but takes 5 to 25 years to take effect. He expressed the need to think in visionary terms. Mr. Barnhart said if there is no 'big picture' plan, development will continue to happen in a haphazard manner.

Other Business

Exide Property: Mr. Barnhart said Exide and INCO are maintaining the lot. The town wanted to sell the Pent Row piece of property to the owner of Martell, but the adjoining property owners objected. Exide has asked the state fisheries department for guidelines as to the river clean up. They would like to be able to go outside the black out period to perform the work in order to do it in an expedient manner. Mr. Barnhart expects it will be at least 3 years before the remediation is complete.

Downtown traffic/parking: Ms. Abrahamson asked if a meeting could be arranged for early September with the new police chief to discuss holiday traffic and parking problems in the downtown area. She also mentioned that the trash receptacles on the Post Road are continually overflowing. She asked if recycling bins could be placed in the area. She will follow up with the town authorities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

The next meeting is August 9, 2010.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner

