

**Town of Seymour  
Economic Development Department**

**Minutes  
Tuesday, July 5, 2011 – 7:00 PM  
Flaherty Room – Seymour Town Hall**

Members present: Jon Szuch, Ted Holly, Rosalie Averill, Marietta Sabetta,  
Ron Balabon

Members not present: Mike Horbal

**ITEM #1 Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Jon Szuch.

**ITEM #2 Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Jon Szuch.

**ITEM #3 Moment of Silence – remembrance of ED Commissioner Joseph Cass** who passed away recently. Chairman Szuch asked everyone to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Commissioner Joseph Cass as he was a member of the Commission for 28 years and believed in what the Commission is doing per Chairman Szuch.

**ITEM #4 First Selectman Comments**

First Selectman Paul Roy stated that the new Economic Development Director, Fred Messori is on board and felt that he will do a good job for the Town of Seymour. He stated that the Commission has been working hard but the Town needs that one person to work to bring in new development who works in town hall as paid staff. He stated that he is looking forward to working with him.

First Selectman Roy also stated that he has applied for a State grant for a study of the downtown area to help upgrade streetscapes and aesthetics in downtown Seymour.

**ITEM #5 Public Comments**

Howard Enquist, 768 Derby Avenue stated that his parcel is approximately 7 acres in size. He stated that he has spoken with Art Bogen from VCOG regarding Brownfields \$ funds. He did a quick assessment of the property and felt that anything on the site did not need to be remediated.

**Item #6 Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2011 EDC Meeting.**

Mrs. Averill noted that on Page 1 of the minutes her comments in Paragraph 2 of Public Comments should have indicated that she felt that some of the money could be encumbered for the Broad Street Park project. A motion to approve the minutes with the noted correction was made by Mrs. Averill, seconded by Mr. Holly and carried unanimously (5-0). Mr. Szuch noted that Mr. Yagovane never sent him an invoice for the remembrance bench for ED Commissioner Joseph Cass for the soon to be renovated Broad Street Park and without that invoice the funds could not be encumbered from last year's fiscal's budget.

ITEM #7 Update TonSha Marketing - EDC.com website, EDC Mailing and EDC Real Estate and Other Stackable Templates – Sharon Grodzicki

Sharon Grodzicki stated that they are working to get the marketing program in place. She asked if the mailings did go out and First Selectman Roy stated that the telephone number on the letter for the Economic Development Director is incorrect 203-463-3024. He also stated that he and Fred Messoro will develop an introductory letter and add the correct telephone number which will be included in the mailing. There was a discussion on the telephone number and whether it is a working number and could be switched to the Economic Development Office. First Selectman Roy stated that he will try and get this straightened out. Sharon Grodzicki felt that the business directory should be included and Mr. Szuch felt that it was important to get the letter from the First Selectman and Mr. Messoro and get the mailings out.

Sharon Grodzicki stated that the website is all set and felt that the businesses should be listed and then work can be done on the real estate templates. Mr. Szuch also noted that Fred Messoro should be listed on the website along with his contact information. This way any contacts can go through him and Sharon Grodzicki. She stated that she will come down and meet with Fred Messoro and go over things with him. Mr. Messoro asked who maintains the website and Mrs. Grodzicki stated that there is a contract with Web Solutions and that Chairman Szuch and her maintain the website monthly. Mr. Messoro stated that he should be getting a cell phone from the Town of Seymour for business use for his position and is waiting to get that phone number so that he can have business cards printed with all his information.

Mrs. Averill stated that Mr. Messoro could start with the downtown area and introduce himself to the business owners and get them to complete the form for the website. She also stated that he could do the same at the Silvermine Industrial Park.

ITEM #8 Introduction of new Seymour ED Director and monthly report.

Mr. Szuch stated that Fred Messoro is the new ED Director and he and Mike Horbal have already met with him. Mr. Holly stated that he met with him and took him through town and showed him different properties, schools, neighborhoods and projects. Mr. Szuch stated that Mr. Messoro will present a more detailed report at the August 2 meeting.

Each Commissioner introduced themselves to Mr. Messoro and gave their background.

Mr. Messoro stated that he resides in Orange and was with the West Haven Economic Development Corporation and is also a part-time commercial real estate broker with Colonial Properties as a Vice President. He stated that while at the position in West Haven he handled many projects including the railroad station and did some work to upgrade the quality of life in the downtown area. He spoke on the redevelopment of the Saw Mill Road area and what is needed to attract developers to a town. He stated

that he left that position in 2006 because of budget cuts and is very excited about taking the position in Seymour.

Mr. Messore stated that since he has been on the job in Seymour for several weeks he has met with various Commission members and the First Selectman. They also met with the Haynes Construction Company to go over their project concepts for their 267 acre parcel behind Stop & Shop. He stated that he met with Rick Dunne, VCOG Director and was updated on some projects. He stated that Griffin Hospital will be leasing 1500sqft of space in the Klarides Village Plaza for use as a medical office and felt that this was a good thing for Seymour. Mrs. Averill suggested that he read the monthly reports that had been submitted by the former ED Director to see what the Commission expects to receive on a monthly basis. Mrs. Averill also stated that previously there had been a monthly meeting with downtown business owners and the First Selectman and ED Director. She felt that was a good way to get feedback from them.

Mr. Messore stated that he would like to be a conduit between different departments and boards/commissions in the town. He felt that it was important to have an open dialogue with them. First Selectman Roy suggested getting the various chairmen together for a summit meeting in August 2011. He also stated that Mr. Messore will be meeting with our Seymour local state representatives and state senator.

#### ITEM #9 DARP – EDC Concept discussion

Mrs. Averill moved that this matter be tabled to the August meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sabetta and carried unanimously (5-0).

#### ITEM #10 EDC Chairman's Report

Mr. Szuch stated that he felt that the grant \$, streetscapes and aesthetics are critically important to Seymour's viability. He also felt that the Commission needs to spend some time discussing the Derby Avenue area as the future to Seymour's south corridor. He stated that it is wonderful to have an ED Director again and welcomed Mr. Messore in the position of ED Director.

Mr. Szuch stated that Auto Zone and Chase Bank are moving along and Auto Zone should open soon. Chase Bank is most likely an opening in 2012. He felt that it was important for Mr. Messore to meet with VCOG constantly. First Selectman Roy stated that regarding the Housatonic Wire site there are insurance issues with that property. He stated that the Phase I work has been done on the former Seymour Lumber Yard and Phase II will be done soon. He also stated that they are in the process of applying for a Small Cities grant \$ for signage for the downtown area and industrial park. First Selectman stated that they are putting in a grant for the relocating of the Seymour skate park and a committee will be formed for that project shortly. The town is also working on a grant for a study and design for a river walk along the river bank near where the \$5 million fish-by-pass is slated to be installed by CT DEP. Another grant that they are working on would be for the Public Works building roof replacement and an additional road salt shed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ted Holly, seconded by Ron Balabon and carried unanimously (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. by Chairman Jon Szuch.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne DeTullio, Recording Secretary