

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
HADDAM YOUTH CENTER
Wednesday, 14 July 2010, at 7:00 PM
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Subject to Change by the Commission**

X	Heather Batzner
A	Joseph Bergin
X	Dan Dachelet
X	Barbara Fernandez
X	Michael Fortuna, Chairman
X	Peter Gillespie
X	Lori Maggi
A	David Papallo
X	Edward Vynalek
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fortuna called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Approved as submitted.

4. Old Business

**a. Proposed Potential Sewer Project – Wright-Pierce Study – Higganum Center
– Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen**

Mr. Fortuna stated the updated report takes into consideration a larger development on the Rossi property and potential impacts related to a larger development. Mr. Fortuna stated funding would be affected based on those potential impacts while the previously proposed technology and approaches are still valid.

Mr. Vynalek stated he reviewed the study thoroughly and on the first page there are three “ifs” – if Middletown decides to promote develop, if Middletown would agree to share option, and if Middletown shares the cost related. Mr. Fortuna stated those “ifs” are based on Haddam connecting with Middletown, but at the last meeting the Commission was leaning towards the town owning its own treatment plant and not connecting to Middletown. Mr. Vynalek stated the first page of the study suggests that. Mr. Fortuna stated the complications of connecting with

Middletown from an engineering standpoint are easily overcome, but from a planning standpoint are very difficult. Mr. Fortuna stated there would be more flexibility if the town were to own its own treatment plant which could be constructed in a modular fashion and capacity increased as needed.

Mr. Fortuna stated he had sent out a draft motion and asked for comments. Ms. Fernandez asked that the motion contain wording that the Commission does not recommend connecting with Middletown. Mr. Vynalek suggested it be made clear that the Commission has looked at various options. Ms. Fernandez stated her main concern is the cost – to the town, to the taxpayers – and that it needs to be a shared venture.

Mr. Gillespie read the draft motion to help in opening discussion. Mr. Fortuna stated the Commission is asking the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to get the project shovel ready. Mr. Fortuna also stated this will help to get the project through the Construction Document Phase (obtain real costs), can be used as an incentive for development (town committed to development), and will help to make the town more competitive.

Mr. Dachelet asked how this project will be funded. Mr. Fortuna stated that would be for the BOS to determine. Discussion followed in regard to bonding for infrastructure projects – water in Tylerville, road projects – and the Commission recommending the sewer project be considered a part of those bonding projects. Mr. Dachelet asked for an estimate to get this project ready. Mr. Fortuna stated \$400,000-\$650,000.

Mr. Fortuna stated he believes the plan is viable; however, the challenge will be in establishing the need (why it's important). Mr. Dachelet agreed with Mr. Fortuna and stated that EDC needs to find an effective way to communicate the importance of the project. Discussion followed regarding possible ways to inform the public – BOS, public hearing(s), town meeting.

Ms. Fernandez stated she felt EDC should compile a Power Point presentation and volunteered to help put one together. Mr. Fortuna suggested the item be placed on one of BOS agendas. Ms. Fernandez stated she would like to create a draft and get comments from the Commission prior to presenting it to the BOS.

MOTION: Mike Fortuna made a motion to recommend that the Board of Selectmen solicit proposals for the design of a packaged wastewater treatment system owned and operated by the Town of Haddam to serve Higganum Village, and to contract with the selected Engineer for services through the Construction Document Phase, in order to position the Town to be proactive with the Economic Development of the Village of Higganum and the Town of Haddam. The system shall be designed to be either gravity or low pressure, as deemed appropriate by the Engineer and an appointed Building Committee. The system shall be modular in design, so a minimum capacity can be built when the time is appropriate, and have the system expandable as demand and funds warrant. Barbara Fernandez seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Reappointments – Joe Bergin and Mike Fortuna

Joe Bergin and Mike Fortuna have been reappointed to the Commission for another three years – terms to expire 30 June 2013.

b. New EDC Projects/Initiatives/Discussion

Tylerville - Mr. Fortuna stated the next project the Commission should focus on is Tylerville. Discussion followed in regard to whether or not a land swap will take place and the need to create village regulations for Tylerville.

EDC Coordinator – Mr. Fortuna stated 13 applications have been received for the position. This list will be shortened and interviews will be arranged. Mrs. Maggi asked if EDC would have a roll in the process. Mr. Fortuna stated Mr. DeStefano, first selectman, has asked him to sit in on the interviews.

Higganum Vision Group (HVG) – Mr. Dachelet stated the HVG has a new website that is up and running. Mr. Dachelet stated he and members of the group will be speaking directly to business owners to see what they feel is the best way to promote their businesses and how an association could best serve them.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Mike Fortuna made a motion to adjourn. Lori Maggi seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11 August 2010, 7:00 p.m.