

Devens Economic Analysis Team ("DEAT")

**Minutes of April 13, 2012 Meeting
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Fireplace Meeting Room, Old Library**

Orville Dodson, Secretary

Members Present: Victor Normand, Duncan Chapman, Paul Green, Steve Finnegan, and Orville Dodson.

Guests Present: Joe Hutchinson.

The meeting was called to order by Victor Normand. Victor opened the meeting by reporting that he has not as yet been able to schedule a meeting with the assessor at Devens to obtain and discuss the current Devens assessment data. One consequence of this situation is that we probably can not complete our Annual Report by our desired date of April 17 since current assessment information is needed to complete the report. Victor and Steve Finnegan suggested that we complete the report prior to the end of town Fiscal Year 2012, which means prior to June 30. That change in date was agreeable to all members.

The fact that our Annual Report will not be completed before Town Meeting means that we will not be able to report at Town Meeting. Paul suggested that we nevertheless report at Town Meeting to give some updates. He had in mind mentioning the demise of Evergreen at Devens as a cautionary tale and mentioning that Devens Utilities will be throwing off ~\$1.5 million per year as PILOT ("Payment In Lieu of Taxes") payments to the town(s) having jurisdiction over Devens. Harvard will be getting some of this. Victor suggested that Paul and Duncan prepare a presentation on Devens Utilities which would be our report at Town Meeting. It would go under Article 1 at Town Meeting.

Paul Green then took the floor and reported on the March 29 meeting that he and Duncan Chapman had with Jim Moore, the Manager of Devens Utilities ("DU"). He distributed a written report of this meeting titled "Notes from the Visit with Jim Moore". He then walked the members through some highlights from the report that weren't given by him in our prior meeting (4/5/12). The highlights were:

- DU has bond obligations for Electrical infrastructure.
- DU gets its electrical supply and maintenance from the Wellesley public utility.
- DU has reserves of \$1million, each, for Electrical and Water emergencies. DU has a total reserves of \$1million.
- DU's waste water capacity is built out to the max using discharge into the ground only. Any further increase in waste water capacity will probably require discharges into the Nashua River which would be an expensive proposition.

Victor asked whether DU currently has responsibility for storm water handling. Paul was unsure of whether it did. Victor remarked that storm water was something DU could take over if it weren't doing that already. Orville asked whether Jim Moore (mgr of DU) will be staying on in his role for some time, the thinking being that he may be responsible for some of DU's good operating results. Paul noted that Jim is in his early 60s so may not be at DU much longer, however Jim isn't a "magician" and others could probably do as well. There may also be some characteristics at Devens that help DU to operate well.

Changing topics, Victor remarked that he thinks something will happen sooner rather than later on the final disposition of Devens because MassDev doesn't have much money left (perhaps \$20million, maybe less) and is losing \$6-8million per year and so will need to go to the state for new funds sometime soon. This might prompt the MassDev Board of Directors or the State to ask what's the end-game at Devens, will Devens continue to need additional funds and for how long, and is it not time for final disposition?

Steve Finnegan and Orville have a meeting scheduled with the Devens DPW manager on Monday 4/23. Victor suggested that Steve and Orville ask which services that DPW currently provides are core services and which are optional. Among the optional might be park and recreation area maintenance, lawn mowing, etc. Get a list of the optional services that DPW is providing; some of these might be moved to other bodies at Devens such as a Parks Department.

Finally our next meeting was discussed. It was decided that our next meeting would be Friday 4/20 at 7:30am. It was then moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn and it did so at 9am.