

MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Wednesday, April 13, 2011**

Call to Order: Chairman W. Sirak called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Present: Craig Ahlquist, Fred Bishop, Bill Gahara, Nicholas Mercier, Mark Sanborn, David Scarpetti and Chairman William Sirak

Staff: Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner)

Also Present: Sid Baines (Hooksett Sewer Commissioner)

Excused: Tom Barrett, Debra Campbell, Carol Granfield (Town Administrator), John Gryval, Andrew Lynch, Mike Reed

Approval of Minutes

The March 9, 2011 minutes were approved.

Sewer Commission Update

Sid Baines, Sewer Commissioner presented an update to the board.

A little over \$700,000 was put aside to expand the sewer system and run it from the Martin's Ferry pump station to the sewer plant along the railroad tracks. The railroad company has some new requirements for laying the pipes, which will increase total costs to about \$1.3 million. The Sewer Commission had to abandon the project since there is shortage of funds. About \$400,000 is left for the expansion.

Walmart is interested in setting up a facility, if someone else would join in the effort but no one seems to be interested. Sewer has the capacity to accommodate Walmart. Walmart has agreed to put up and pay for a pump station to Sewer's specifications. Total cost is estimated at about \$1 million. They are putting in a dedicated pipeline to a pump station coming across the river hooking onto Martin's Ferry pump station to the plant using the existing pipes. If Martin's Ferry pump station expansion goes through, Lowe's and other business in Exit 10 area will be able to tie into the sewer line. The pipelines will also have to be enlarged. Market Basket has expressed interest. There will be infrastructure and maintenance costs involved.

J. Duffy stated the pump station Walmart is proposing is not large enough to accommodate anyone else but Walmart. J. Duffy suggested someone from Town should

talk to business owners and bring them all together and work on trying to get an enterprise plan started.

*C. Ahlquist moved to authorize and encourage the Sewer Commission to facilitate and bring together initial meeting with business property owners around Exit 10 to further explore expansion of the sewer system. Motion seconded by M. Sanborn. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Further discussion on the matter will take place at the next meeting on Wednesday, May 11th.

Hooksett Economic Development Plan

The draft plan was presented to the board. This plan will also be presented to the Planning Board and the Town Council for approval and will then become a chapter in the Master Plan.

Chair Sirak asked everyone to review the plan for suggestions and changes to be made at a later date. The financial aspect will be discussed at the next meeting.

The board had general discussion on the items included in the plan.

Nominating Committee Report

The board is still looking for a representative from SNHU.

Chair Sirak would rather appoint someone from their Community Development Department, who can contribute something of real value to the board, instead of a student, who is looking to learn.

C. Ahlquist stated he is familiar of the program. They are trying to create economic development in the poorest of poorest places. It's very fundamental and nothing like Hooksett. He suggested one of the trustees or senior management.

Educational Sessions with Key Town Officials

The board will wait until the new Council is seated and will schedule sessions with small groups.

Economic Summit Update

An Economic Summit is being planned to be attended by local business owners and Town Department Heads.

M. Sanborn will arrange for a speaker, i.e., Governor Lynch, Manchester Mayor Guinta, NHDRED Commissioner Bald to speak at the event. Steve Heavener, SNHPC could possibly do a presentation on commercial revolving loans, tax credits, etc.

The board discussed on when the best time to hold the event.

Ambassador's Program Update

The program has become stagnant. In the past year, the board has made only 6 visits. F. Bishop asked for the board's opinion on whether the board should continue/discontinue the program or put it in the back burner for the time being. Given all the issues the Town is currently facing, members could expect to receive a lot of questions.

Chair Sirak suggested putting it in the back burner at least until the fall, when a new Town Administrator is in place.

C. Ahlquist suggested assigning members who would be available to do the visits. He also suggested visiting a group, i.e. Hooksett Chamber of Commerce and obtaining feedback rather than visiting one business at a time.

The list of businesses will be sent to all members.

Summer Meeting Schedule

The board will on June 8th and July 13th.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant