

Minutes Economic Development Committee meeting July 15, 2015

Attendees: Erik Espling, Chuck Osgood, Sarah Zmistowski, Pat Rice and Town Manager-Mark Leonard

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm and the minutes for the last meeting were approved unanimously.

- **Penobscot River Race-** Discussion about ideas how to best participate as a town ensued and several suggestions. It was noted during the discussion that the Town was not involved in the various meeting for the planning event and that next year we should endeavor to be included in some of the preliminary meetings.
Action items: Mark will check with the utility company to get a cost on 'rigging' for banners. Chuck will see if Bangor Savings can provide bags for the race participants, Sarah will check about obtaining hats, Pat will call TradeWinds to see if they can provide bottled water and coupons and Mark will see if there are any Town related items to include. The bags will be given to the youth participants at the end of the race on July 23.
- **Commercial Property-** Vacant or unused property that could be used in commercial activity was discussed among these properties was those along Route 2—Johnson Monument in particular as well as the vacant properties on School Street and the possible expansion plans of some enterprises in town. We also discussed some of the Town's benefits that may be used for business attraction –access to rail line, Route 2, close to Route 95, river/water availability, natural gas energy plant
Action item: Mark will speak to Bryan of the plant to see what plans are for the future and if there are any enterprises that can benefit from nearness to the plant. Mark will also contact the family who owns Johnson Monuments to learn of their plans for the property.
- **Community Center-** A short discussion regarding any change in ownership of the Community Center and how that would fit into the existing TIF. The question that was not resolved was if taxes for commercial tenants would go into the TIF account since the property is covered under the TIF agreement

or would a separate amendment have to be added. This question will be revisited at the next meeting. Mark indicated that our memo was relayed to the Community Center Redevelopment Committee and they will respond to the Council in late August or early September. Action item: Sarah will check into cost of a legal opinion on the effects of a sale under the existing TIF.

- **Existing Businesses-** Suggestions about how to support existing businesses were noted among them were keeping our business directory on the Town website up-to-date, possible sign of businesses as you enter town, stickers that have VZ on them to promote the town.

Action item: Sarah will check out the cost of VZ stickers.

Next meeting was set for Wednesday September 9 at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded at 8:05pm