**Minutes Economic Development Committee meeting May 6, 2015**

Attendees: Erik Espling, Chuck Osgood, Pat Rice and Sarah Zmistowski and invited speaker: Ben Birch

Meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm. Minutes of the April 8th meeting were approved as written. Consideration of the agenda items was given and one additional item-an update on the presentation to the council was added.

* **Current Businesses**- Ben Birch gave an update on the commercial businesses in Veazie. He handed out a print out from the business directory listed on the Veazie Town website. A second handout was “Highest Assessment Report”, of personnel property which includes equipment, machinery but excludes business inventory, land and building. In that report, Casco Bay Energy LLC had the largest business assessment at $133,457,100 (See attached for both handouts). Discussion followed regarding: 1. missing businesses on the listing and the updating of the list, 2. Vacant property that would be open for development, 3. The existing TIF with amendment and implications for economic development and reporting. Action items: Pat to find out if there are any reports on the TIF that would be helpful as well as inquire about the update of the Veazie Business Directory on the website, locate commercial zoning map and identification of available land for development.
* **TIF amendment**: Sarah handed out a summary of the TIF amendment of October 22, 2012 which added the Community Center land and public access land for a gas line extension to the original TIF document (see attachment). Our attention was called to the Table 2 –the Municipal Development Plan that was part of this amendment. The amendment lists a number of municipal investments both inside and outside the TIF district. Emphasis in the amendment was on making improvements to the Community Center that allow for additional commercial enterprise leases, thereby creating jobs and generating income in the community. Discussion followed on the wisdom of renovating the Community Center and on whether or not the renovation of the Community Center would generate any economic development and would the center be able to cover its costs. Action item: Chuck Osgood will develop a summary report to present to the Council regarding the economic development outlook with respect to the Community Center.
* **Added agenda item**: Pat outlined the points that she made to the Town Council regarding the progress of the committee. She drew her report on April 13th to the Town Council from the minutes of the April 8th meeting such as the ongoing committee review of the TIF amendment, Penobscot River restoration project and the difficulty of the Economic Development Committee to see any commercial use of the Community Center.
* **Next meeting was scheduled for Monday June 15th at 7pm to coincide** with the Planning Board meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm