**Minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting**

**September 9, 2015**

Attendees: Erik Espling, Chuck Osgood, Sarah Zmistowski, Pat Rice, Town manager-Mark Leonard and four members of the Veazie Community Center Redevelopment committee.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm and the minutes of the July 15th meeting were approved unanimously.

* **Old Business and Follow up from the July 15th meeting:** Mark Leonard obtained the quote for the ability to attach banners across the roadway- for 2 wires it would be $500.00 and if another pole were needed it would be an additional $800.00. After some discussion a motion was made to move forward with this project-it was seconded and then approved unanimously. Mark has talked with Bryan at the Veazie power plant and there would likely be some additional investment in that area. The committee would like to discuss these possibilities and perhaps the best way to understand the situation would be for the committee to meet with Bryan and other personnel at the Veazie power plant. Action item: Mark will try to arrange such a meeting in the coming weeks. Mark connected with the owners of the Johnson Monument property and they are in discussions with a local entrepreneur. If there fails to be an agreement, the property may go on the real estate market before winter. The Collabric expansion that was under consideration some time ago would have been in the range of $1.25M. This was put on hold because of drainage problems and the $350,00 cost to correct them that would have to be borne by Collabric. The situation has since changed and the committee would like to talk with Collabric about future plans. Action item: Erik will try to arrange a meeting with the committee at Collabric’s facility in the coming weeks. Sarah reported that VZ stickers (4x6 oval laminate) were $1 per 100 but cost per sticker declined with volume purchases. The cost of a magnetic sticker would be $5.32 per 100. Sarah also checked on the cost for legal services to understand the implications to the TIF if the Veazie Community Center changed hands. This initial cost would be in the range of $500.
* **Community Center Discussion:** The Veazie Community Center Redevelopment Committee presented their report (see attached) and gave an overview of the history of the work that they have done over the last six years. Among the improvements were the roof, boiler, new windows and insulation. The natural gas was extended to the Community Center under the TIF amendment in 2012 as well as the inclusion of the Center’s property. The new request to the Town Council continues their piece by piece improvement and would cost approximately $71,000 for ADA compliance in the downstairs, new entrance doors, bathroom improvements and sprinklers. Discussion followed between with members of the Economic Development Committee raising concerns about additional property improvement costs, maintenance costs, operational costs, staffing and the need for community programs. No action was taken and we thanked the Redevelopment Committee for presenting their outlook for the building.
* **Comprehensive Plan:** Little was discussed about the plan except that the State has a very formal format of what is required. The economic development section of the last Veazie comprehensive plan was about 9 pages. Further discussion was postponed on this matter.
* **Signage:** The idea of an electronic wireless sign on entering the Town was briefly discussed and there was little support for the idea. No further action is required.

Next meeting—not scheduled because we hope to have 2 business site visits in the coming weeks. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm