

1. Call to Order

The Chester Economic Development Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Susan Wright called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

2. Roll Call

Those in attendance were Susan Wright, Patricia Bendzes and Michael Sanders. First Selectman Ed Meehan was also present.

3. Audience of Citizens – none.

4. Discussion of 2015 program initiatives

- Bridge Construction Updates

First Selectman Meehan noted a response has not yet been received regarding the DEEP Permits. The project manager has advised they are thinking of shortening the notice period. Meehan noted there are utilities involved in this project – Water Pollution Control Authority, Connecticut Water Company, Cable, CL&P, etc. The utilities design the replacement infrastructure, not the consultant. CWC is designing the replacement line for water and Jacobson is designing the replacement sewer line. All that work has to be submitted by January 21st. They are still hoping to get the bids out in April and award the project by July 1st.

First Selectman Meehan briefly reviewed the moving of utility poles. He also noted they are trying to get an agreement in place to get reimbursed for utility design costs. They have also asked for a hydrant where the water trough is currently located. It will be designed and put into this project. That will help with fire protection. It will not interfere with any parking spaces.

First Selectman Meehan noted the culvert by the Post Office has been inspected and needs to be replaced. It is now being designed, cost will be \$60,000 to \$75,000. The CWC is all done with their water main replacement except in the area of the culvert.

- Signage Discussion

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the art work from Peter and Jan Good for the Gateway signage (color, font, style, material, etc.). He noted a proposal had been received from a

sign company almost a year ago now. There was discussion about making sure there are spaces on the sign to allow wind to go through it. A solid sign is not good. Meehan reviewed wayfinding signage that was in the Town Center Plan. He suggested getting prices to see how much it would cost to construct it. There was discussion regarding having a squirrel on the top of the sign.

First Selectman Meehan noted both existing signs are in bad shape. Chairman Wright suggested lighting on the sign at the commuter lot. Meehan noted there is \$12,000 in the budget. Wright noted she will follow up with the Goods on when they will have the specs written up. That can then be given to the sign company from a year ago

First Selectman Meehan noted the Chester Historical Society has requested to be on the sign. They will replace Chester Village West.

Chairman Wright asked what the process is now to move forward. Meehan noted he would just run it by the Main Street Project Committee and then obtain 3 quotes. Wright reiterated she would contact Peter and Jan to see for the specs to send out with the request for quotes. Meehan noted this is in the EDC budget because it is marketing and development.

- New Business

Chairman Wright noted Chester will be getting a radio station. No antennas, it will be through computers.

First Selectman Meehan noted the Town held a tax sale on 59 Winthrop Road, but no one showed up.

It was noted business employees downtown should park in one of the two municipal parking lots at Water Street or Maple Street.

Pat Bendzes noted the Middlesex Chamber is sponsoring a meeting for Economic Development people in the county on February 6th at the Crown Plaza in Cromwell. The purpose is to talk about promoting economic development and disaster planning and recovery.

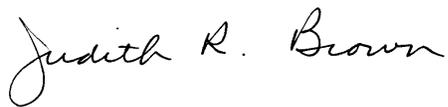
There was a brief discussion about what to include in the 2015/2016 budget. Meehan noted there are some energy programs out there to help small businesses with energy costs. Bendzes also noted there is another resource of economic development planning people from Middlesex County.

5. Approval of Minutes – November

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary