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Town of Griswold

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**GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 15, 2021

GRISWOLD TOWN HALL MAIN MEETING ROOM, 28 MAIN STREET, JEWETT CITY, CT

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Tom Giard asked all present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag.

I. REGULAR MEETING (7:00 P.M.)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Giard called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Tom Giard, Vice Chairman Jim Barnie, Secretary Charlotte Geer, Paul Lach, Town Planner Mario J. Tristany, Jr

Absent: Kenneth Bousquet.

3. Determination of Quorum

Chairman Giard determined that a quorum of the Commission was seated.

4. Public Comment

Chairman T. Giard noted that 1st Selectman Dana Bennett was present, as well as David Bennett, Planning and Zoning Commission member

5. Project Updates

A. J.R Flagg Route 164 – Update

Chairman T. Giard stated that he spoke to Mr. Flagg and was told that he has no interest in developing the land and the land is up for sale. He further noted that according to Mr. Flagg, Campers World has first right of refusal on the property

B. Heritage River Village Project Route 164 – Project Update.

T. Giard stated that he spoke with Jeff recently and he is working with a Boston based bank for a bridge loan. He further noted that the bank is looking for additional information. According to Jeff, the bank loan is expected to happen next month and updates of the plans will follow and a Spring 2022 is the expected start of construction.

C. Titan, LLC -110 Unit Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility, 134 Preston Road

Town Planner M. Tristany stated that he spoke with James Edward regarding the property. James's father gave Brian Byrnes approximately \$11 Million to construct the 110 unit assisted Living Facility. It was noted that Mr. Byrnes passed away and the property currently has for sale signs on it. According to Mr. Edwards, the property is tied up in probate and Mr. Edwards is trying to get control of the property. M. Tristany stated that he will keep in contact with Mr. Edwards. Mr. Edwards had mentioned that they desire to construct the approved project.

D. Infrastructure Update

Town Planner M. Tristany stated that the finance director, first selectman and I have been meeting weekly with our USDA consultant Fuss & O'Neill regarding the USDA grant and loan program for sanitary and water systems improvements. First Selectman Dana Bennett noted that the meetings have been on a weekly basis.

Town Planner M. Tristany noted that the sanitary portion of the USDA grant is almost 100 percent complete. The water component was taken out of the original application at the request of the USDA. The water component of the application will be filed in January 2022.

Town Planner M. Tristany noted that our original USDA application, at the request of the Norwich USDA staff included both the sanitary and the water projects. The Boston USDA office required us to separate the two into separate applications, apparently due to funding short falls.

First Selectman, Dana Bennet stated that she is looking forward to meeting with the Data Center folks to get hard information on their funding of the proposed water tower.

Commissioner J. Barnie mentioned the federal infrastructure bill. Town Planner M. Tristany commented that we have been talking about using some of the money that is earmarked for Griswold to underwrite some of the referendum money to save the Griswold taxpayers some money.

Commissioner P. Lach stated that information should be available to the public regarding the status of the infrastructure projects.

A short discussion ensued about the projects.

Town Planner M. Tristany stated that he will speak to our consultant about putting together an Executive Summary of the USDA projects.

E. Green Earth – 235 East Main Street, PWC Site

Town Planner M. Tristany commented that he had filed a Ct Dept. of Economic and Community Development (DECD) grant application for Brownfields cleanup for the Plastic Wire and Cable main plant property on East Main Street. He further noted that our application was not funded because we did not have a committed developer. He further noted that DECD wants to make sure that we have a developer with skin in the game.

Town planner M. Tristany commented that Green Earth Environmental has teamed with a developer. And a new DECD Brownfields Grant application has been filed. We are currently awaiting SECD's decision on our latest grant filing.

6. Other Matters

Commissioner J. Barnie referenced the recent Board of Selectmens meeting and the two grant applications.

First Selectman Dana Bennet referenced the Tourism Grant that is available from the Eastern Regional Tourism District and that \$10,000.00 was available to develop a marketing program with a one-to-one match.

Commissioner J. Barnie mentioned the Voluntown Brochure and Map that included some of Griswold.

Chairman T. Giard mentioned that he and Jim Barnie had delivered the brochures to local businesses and further noted that they were not well received because they were not Griswold brochures.

Commissioner C. Geer mentioned the individual that had prepared the Voluntown brochure and stated that she would contact him and ask him to attend our EDC meeting.

First Selectman D. Bennett asked C. Geer to forward the brochure contact information to her.

First Selectman D. Bennett referred to the local Griswold history brochure that Town Planner M. Tristany had prepared.

Town Planner M. Tristany stated that he had briefly looked at the Eastern Regional Tourism paperwork and noted that the grant program was heavily geared to Tourism.

7. Adjournment

Here being no additional business, Chairman T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner C. Geer made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Commissioner J. Barnie second the motion and the Commission adjourned.

Thomas Giard, Jr.
Chairman