

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 25, 2015**

PRESENT: M. Gantick, John Rettenmeier, Ray Fenn, M. Chatey, G. Lawrence
W. Darcy, R Williams, Akaya McElveen (guest)

1. **Call to Order** - 7:37 PM
2. **Seating of Alternates** - None
3. **Approval of Minutes** - motion to approve Darcy, second Fenn; passed
4. **Budget**
 - a. Reviewed expenditures YTD
 - b. Motion to approve expense report Margaret, second Darcy; passed.
5. **Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements
 - i. March 19th Ashford Ag Comm. will host meeting on Helping Farmers
 - ii. Willington is also holding a Ag themed event on March 15th in their library. Fenn passed around the announcement.
 - b. News from Other Commissions
 - i. Art Talmadge, Chairman of Agriculture Commission, had planned to discuss a proposal for regulations concerning small Farm Stores. However, again he postponed and asked to be put on next month's agenda
 - c. ABA News
 - i. Business Expo on 01/31/14 had all tables sold out, but town attendance was disappointing. Weather was one factor, as was the time of year. Plans to pick a date next year that coincides with a library event and hold it later in the year.
 - ii. The ABA supports having a Small Business Saturday event for the Saturday after Thanksgiving joint with the EDC. The event will be open to ALL area businesses. The ABA has reserved St. Phillips Hall. The ABA will also handle all registration and fees. Margaret will take the lead in organizing this event for the EDC.
 - iii. The ABA is close to getting their 503(c)(6) designation.
 - d. Correspondence and Meetings - none
 - e. Presentations - none
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Website Modifications (Darcy, Chatey) -
 - i. Based upon the motion passed during our last meeting, Margaret obtained a quote from a local website designer (Eliza Satterlee) for the OT-OF

- ii. Proposed logos were presented, as was the SOW. The site would be a similar to the Mansfield Tomorrow website, except much simpler and less costly.
 - iii. The quote was presented as \$600 for design and deployment, and \$96 (a pass through) for web hosting via Squarespace
 - iv. Motion to approve the expenditure by Lawrence, seconded by Darcy, passed unanimously.
 - b. CERC Site Finder (Fenn)
 - i. Williams contacted them and told them that we would not be renewing. No response back from them to date.
 - c. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick)
 - i. Next public meeting is on March 10th at 7:00 PM.
 - 1. Focus will be on non-land use topics: municipal services, education, and recreation/social activities..
 - ii. Tentative planning a 4th meeting in May
 - iii. Discussed domain names for website. Gantick will investigate.
 - d. Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
 - i. Ready to meet with Liberty Bank. Team are to propose dates.
 - e. PZA Zoning Regulations Re-Write (Williams)
 - i. No meeting this month due to weather
 - ii. Plan to discuss POCD at next meeting
 - f. Wagon Shed Property (Fenn, Darcy)
 - i. A motion was made Gantick, seconded by Darcy, and approved unanimously to go into executive session pursuant to Conn. General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(B) (D) and (E) at 9:00 PM
 - ii. A motion was made by Darcy, seconded by Fenn, and approved unanimously to exit executive session at 9:25 PM
 - g. Buy Local Initiative - Next steps discussion
 - i. No activity
- 7. New Business**
- a. Priorities for 2015 were discussed briefly
- 8. Input From Public - none**
- 9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None**
- 10. Adjournment - 9:33 PM**