

Economic Development Committee
Tuesday, March 26, 2013 - 4:30 p.m. - City Council Chambers

Members present: Morack, O'Connell, Romberg, Dyreson, Steinhorst, and Schirpke
Excused: Tate and Shaw

Also present: Mayor Henke, Administrator Hager, Sandy DuFrane (5:00 pm), Bill Fitzpatrick, Superintendent of the New London School District, Dr. Kathy Gwidt, future Superintendent of New London Schools, Brian Kurszewski, Tech Ed teacher at the High School, and Dave Thiel, Executive Director of the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morack at 4:30 p.m. Schirpke/O'Connell to adopt the agenda. Carried 6-0.
2. Chairman Morack welcomed Bill Fitzpatrick, Dr. Kathy Gwidt, Brian Kurszewski and Dave Thiel to the meeting. The Committee discussed the Youth Apprentice Program with those present. The program connects local businesses with students in order for them to learn about local businesses and get paid to learn at the same time. The business gets to see the talent in local students and the opportunity to retain the student as a productive worker. There are currently five local students placed in businesses. The student actually applies for the job with a resume. If accepted, they go to school half time and work on the job half time. The student has to perform their way into this program. This is not like the olden days where the program was more for "at risk" students. There is a need to change people's opinion of what a "factory job" is today. All our young people do not necessarily need to pursue a college education to be successful. The factory floor of the modern day is not what it used to be. There are a lot of clean, high technology jobs available. In fact, as our population ages, there are more factory jobs available than there are people to fill them. We all need to work together to sell our students and their parents that working in the local manufacturing sector can be a very rewarding, profitable and challenging career. The School District is trying to link our teaching and our students to the local economic sectors such as wood processing, food processing, welding, cheese manufacturing, our nursing home and hospital as well as others. We all need to work together in partnership to encourage our local young people to follow a local career and help us sustain and improve our regional economy. The Youth Apprentice Program is one of those valuable efforts to try and work toward this goal. All agreed to work in partnership to try and improve our local work force. The Committee agreed to stay in touch with the School District to help assure that the Youth Apprentice Program is a success.
3. The Committee next reviewed the status of the subcommittee that is interviewing local real estate firms. The subcommittee will make a recommendation to the Economic Development Committee for a firm to list the city downtown river front property with. It was noted that Pat Connor representing the firm Grubb & Ellis/Pfefferle was interviewed on Monday, March 25th and that the remaining two firms are scheduled to be

interviewed Wednesday, March 27th. Sandy DuFrane with Coldwell Banker at 3:00 pm and Terry Bomier of Bomier Properties at 4:00 pm. A special meeting of the Economic Development Committee will follow to select the firm to list with.

4. Administrator Hager reviewed his monthly report with the Committee.
5. Chairman Morack informed the Committee that the next meeting will be April 30th. Mark Flease from Wolf River Campgrounds will be invited to visit with the Committee. It was also suggested that the Committee invite Joe Marquardt, School District Director of Business Services, to make the District presentation regarding school financing at a future Committee meeting.
6. O'Connell/Schirpke to adjourn. Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Kent Hager
City Administrator