

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Minutes  
February 10, 2021**

DATE: February 10, 2021  
TIME: 5:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Zoom meeting [https # 85168360689](https://zoom.us/j/85168360689)

**Present**

Warren Hua  
Bob Reeve  
Phil Chabot  
Dan Kleinman  
Bill Wadsworth  
Pete Ramchandani  
Rob Phillips  
Ed Giannaros- 6:15 PM

**Staff**

Rose Ponte  
Kathryn Kramer

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Wadsworth at 5:31 pm.

**B. Public Comment**

None noted.

**C. Reading of the minutes**

- a. A motion was made and seconded by ( Kleinman/Chabot) to accept the January 12,2021 minutes. **Motion carried.** Commissioner Reeve abstained.

**D. Introduction to Kathryn Kramer, New Town Planner**

Rose introduced Kathryn Kramer, Farmington's new planner, Kathryn gave the Commissioners, and overview of her past work experience and education. Each Commissioners introduced themselves and discussed their backgrounds. Commissioner Kleinman asked Kathryn to discuss a project she recently worked on. Kathryn discussed the planning process she was involved with to close Riker's prison and replace it with smaller more centrally located modern detention facilities throughout the NY boroughs. The process was complex, needed state, and local approvals, as well as community meetings to engage resident participation in the process. Kathryn commented on the important relationship between both planning and economic development. She is looking forward to working with the Economic Development Commission.

**E. A Review of the 2021-2022 Budget**

Rose reviewed this year's proposed budget and compared it to prior years' requests. The expenses are tied to department's annual goals. Chairman Wadsworth noted there is a slight decrease in this year's budget; Rose explained

that it had to do with less mileage and less events due to COVID restrictions that will probably continue into 2021.

- a. A motion was made and seconded( Reeve/Chabot) to recommend the 2021-2022 budget to Town Council for their consideration. **Motion carried**

#### **F. Economic Development Report**

Rose reviewed meetings, communications, and virtual events that she attended during the month of January. She reviewed the latest shop local campaign. Many merchants participated and seemed to appreciate the department's efforts to assist them during this difficult time. Rose will send the merchants a survey to evaluate the program's reach and gather suggestions for future "buy local" initiatives.

#### **G. Town Council Report**

Councilman Giannaros reported on the following:

1. State Legislators attended the Town Council meeting and answered questions from the Council. Topics discussed included pilot funding, state reimbursements to municipalities, prison legislation, and regional school options.
2. The auditors gave their annual report, it was a clean audit with the recommendation that the Town adopt a fraud policy.
3. The Town Council set a 3% budget target, the BOE has come in above the 3% and the Town departments will present their budget next month.
4. The Town Council's Ad-hoc committee presented their report on the Farmington Village Center Committee's work and made several next step recommendations to the Town Council.

#### **H. New Business**

Rose reported that the Town Council ad-hoc committee determined that rather than purchasing the property for \$2 million for economic development purposes, the Town should consider purchasing the parcel for modified open space. If used for that purpose the price tag would drop to \$1000.00. This space would serve as a Gateway into town, with access to the proposed Farmington Historical Society's future welcome center, allow for a limited amount of public parking (approximately 8 new spaces), and the possibility of locating a historic structure on the property. Commissioner Kleinman asked Kathryn to comment and she explained that she will be doing a deep dive with Rose to better understand the history of this project and the various elements that drove the committee to their recommendations.

#### **I. Adjournment**

- a. A motion was made and seconded (Phillips / Kleinman) to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM. **Motion Carried.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Rose Ponte  
Economic Development Director  
CC: Economic Development Commissioners**