

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

DATE: February 6, 2019
 TIME: 5:30 P.M.
 PLACE: Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

Present

John Karwoski
 Robert Reeve
 Brian Connolly
 Dan Kleinman
 Bill Wadsworth
 Carol King
 Ed Giannaros

Staff

Rose Ponte

- a. **Call to Order**
 - a. Meeting was called to order by the Brian Connolly at 5:30 pm
- b. **Public Comment- none noted**
- c. **Presentation for possible referral for Image First Laundry Services to obtain 5 variances from the Zoning Board of Appeals.**

Mr. William Gay, president of Image First Healthcare Laundry Specialist, gave a presentation outlining the history of his company, his operations and his plans to build an addition to his manufacturing building located at 1838 New Britain Avenue. Image First, is one of few companies left in the medical laundry business and his business is growing. He also has a plant in New Hampshire. He submitted the economic impact documents showing that this addition would result in 18 additional full-time jobs and total development investment of \$4,700,000.00. Commissioner Karwoski asked Mr. Gay what his contingency plan would be should he not receive the necessary variance to build the addition. Mr. Gay replied that he would move the operations to the New Hampshire plant.

- a. **A motion was made and seconded (Kleinman/Wadsworth) to issue a positive referral to the Zoning Board of Appeals for Image First to receive the necessary variances to move forward to TPZ. Motion carried. Commissioner Robert Reeve abstained.**
- d. **Reading of the Minutes**
 - A motion was made and seconded (Reeve /Karwoski) to accept the January 26, 2019 minutes.
 - a. **The motion carried.**

e. Economic Development Report

The Commissioners reviewed the January Economic Development Report.

a. Review of the January 23 business breakfast

The January breakfast was the first People's Bank sponsored breakfast of the series. It was the largest attended breakfast with 200 registered. The surveys were very positive, with many favorable comments reported for the speaker and the topic. The next breakfast is scheduled for May 15th. Mr. David Griggs, president of the Hartford Alliance will be the speaker.

f. Town Council Liaison Report

Councilman Giannaros reported that the Town Council set the target budget increase to be between 2-2.5%, however, they plan to examine the budget carefully to assure all services can be delivered at that budget target. He reported on progress made on the FHS Facility and Financial Ad Hoc Committee and the FHS Survey Ad Hoc Committee

g. Old Business

A. Looking at 2019 Activities

Commissioners discussed various programs that would be valuable to conduct in 2019.

- (a) In the past a State of the Town event was hosted by the EDC, involving the Town Manager, the DPW Director, the Finance Director and other key town employees, there was interest in holding an event like this again. Commissioners discussed the possibility of holding this in the evening vs a morning breakfast.
- (b) There was interest in continuing the small business seminar series and reaching out to interested sponsors to fund the seminar.
- (c) Next month the new marketing materials will be available and distributed to all commissioners. EDC Commissioners can be EDC ambassadors and deliver folders when they visit various businesses in town.
- (d) Rose will develop a PowerPoint presentation for commissioners to use if they are asked to speak at various clubs and town events. The PowerPoint Presentation would allow Commissioners to consistently deliver the same message. Rose will also develop a promotional piece with 5 key talking points with the department's contact information for Commissioners to distribute.
- (e) Commissioners also discussed setting up Industry Cluster focus groups. Rose is already working on a Bioscience Focus group, so this will be the first cluster to develop.
- (f) Chairman Connolly pointed out the importance of attracting young professionals to Farmington. We should focus on making Farmington friendly and attractive to this demographic group.

h. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Kleinman / Reeve) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. **Approved unanimously**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Ponte
Economic Development Director**

CC: Economic Development Commissioners

DRAFT