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Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH

Note: Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Committee. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

CALL TO ORDER:
The regular meeting of the Swanzey Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Cathy Bergstrom.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair Cathy Bergstrom, JR Coughlin, Angelo Skip DiBernardo, Mike Gomarlo, Greg Johnson, Gus Lerandeau were present.

ABSENT:
Hannah Maynard and Selectman Sly Karasinski were absent.

ALSO PRESENT:
Town Administrator Michael Branley and Selectman Bill Hutwelker were present.

MINUTES:
The Minutes of the EDAC meeting of January 13, 2025 were approved by consensus.

NEW BUSINESS:
Planning Office Update. Michael Branley reviewed the application by Blackbelt LLC for a proposed drive-thru restaurant/coffee shop at the corner of Marcy Hill and Route 12. Application is going before the Planning Board February 13. Drive-thru is zoned by Special Exception. Motion by Lerandeau in support of this development. Seconded by DeBernardo. Gomarlo abstained. All in favor.

Proposed Warrant Articles. Branley reviewed Warrant Article 5 related to the Swanzey Water Company, explaining that each well is $1 million to install; already have two functional wells and a third (status uncertain). Expenses would be paid through user fees. No impact to taxpayers. Motion by Johnson, seconded by DeBernardo in favor of this Article and for committee members to promote support of this Article. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 11 relates to establishing a new TIF District to support the water line project. The increased tax value within the district goes to support this project. Johnson asked what the maintenance is on this. Hutwelker explained that it is the same as sewer. Branley stated that EE Houghton maintains the sewers. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Coughlin to support this article. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 14 recommends the Town re-adopt tax exemptions for businesses which meet the criteria outlined in the Article. Consensus in favor of this Article.

OLD BUSINESS:

Becoming Small Business Advocates. Bergstrom reminded the committee members to review the Site Plan Regulations found on the Town website prior to the March EDAC meeting, in preparation for a joint meeting with the Planning Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Town Administrator. In light of Michael Branley's upcoming departure from the role of Town Administrator for the Town of Swanzey, Johnson and other committee members thanked Branley for his efforts on behalf of the Town over the years.

NEXT MEETING:

March 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjournment occurred by consensus at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Bergstrom, Chair