

# MINUTES

## WATERTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

TOWN HALL ANNEX  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Suzanne Church  
Joseph McGrail, Chairman  
Theodore Migliarese, Secretary  
Donato Orsini  
Jack Traver, Vice Chairman (arrived at about 9:00 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Carmine DiPietro  
Norman Marcoux

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** John Manno

**ALTERNATES ABSENT:** Patricia Pawlak

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jason Calabrese, Energy Consultant, Public Power & Utility  
Joseph Seacrist, Economic Development Coordinator

**1. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:30 P.M.**

Mr. McGrail, Chairman, Called the Meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Mr. McGrail, Chairman, executed the Roll Call.

Mr. McGrail, Chairman, asked Mr. Manno to sit in for Mr. DiPietro, in his absence.

**3. Public Participation**

**Jason Calabrese, Energy Consultant, Public Power & Utility**

**Mr. Calabrese:** I'm also a resident in Watertown. His company is a supplier of electricity. Due to deregulation, which was mandated by the State Legislature years back, other companies outside of CL&P are now able to acquire customers for the generation portion of their bill in Connecticut and very often we are cheaper than CL&P. Our business plan states that we are a minimum of 5% cheaper at all times than CL&P or UI. Since our inception we haven't been less than 7%. For the past 12 months we averaged around 13%, and currently today we are a little bit over 10% versus the business rate CL&P is charging people now.

## Watertown Economic Development Commission

### Regular Meeting

January 15, 2009

Page 2

I want to explain this packet of information I just distributed amongst the Economic Development Commission members. We have no enrollment or termination fees, and no long term contracts. It seems like some people tend to use the contract as a crutch, they'd rather be locked in for a certain period. Our business plan doesn't do that because we want to beat the market and always be lower than everyone else. So if we lock people in and the market dictates that we can be lower, we really can't go lower for people who are locked in. If you look at the graphs it shows how we've always been below the market. That's how we've grown our market share over the past 15 months since we've been open to the public and we have tremendous growth right now. Daily we're deluged with phone calls and on-line, etc. So the word is getting out there.

I did an example for some of the businesses. Average household, you're looking at, it's 10% savings off the generation portion of your bill, which is typically about 65% of your overall bill, you're looking at maybe a \$20 savings per month. It still comes out to 4 or 6 weeks a year of your electricity depending on your usage. The thing I really wanted to impress on you is the savings you could offer businesses in Town. The example shows on peak/off peak comparison to the past year. I used 3,000,000 kilowatt hours per year, which comes out to ¼ million a month, and that's probably a mid range industrial business. We see some that do 1,000,000 plus a month, but I just wanted to give you an idea. I'm not sure what the businesses in Town actually use, but you can see the savings annually is substantial, \$78,000.

In the grand scheme of things with the type of money these businesses are doing, it may be considered a drop in the bucket, however it could be a couple of jobs actually, if you take \$78,000, that's 2 people that possibly aren't laid off and every little bit helps in this economic climate that we're in. The on peak/off peak, there is a substantial savings, more so than if you're just regular, because a lot of times when people are on regular, they're only 8 or 9 hours a day that the business is working. Some of these factories are doing 2 or 3 shifts, maybe 7 days a week, and the on peak/off peak is really an unbelievable savings. The on peak savings of .14, you're talking about almost a 20% savings for that portion of your day, so that's something anyone who's on peak/off peak should really consider contacting us and switching over because it's really just costing you money every month.

Beneath that I have a sheet showing just exactly what this is and underneath here is an enrollment sheet. You simply check off where you are, fill it out, and fax it in. Also you can go on line to the web address here, and there is also a business card in here but I'll give you guys some business cards. On the back of my business card it also has the online enrollment, someone could just enroll right there.

**Mr. Manno:** Do you have to notify their current supplier that they were switching?

**Mr. Calabrese:** No, you do not. It's really a seamless transition. You simply fax it over to us.

**Mr. Migliarese:** They don't have to do anything else but sign it, it's absolutely transparent. All you have to do is sign papers to save money, you don't have to do anything different.

**Mr. Manno:** I don't have UI now, I have an alternate supplier. I'm saving 2%.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 3**

**Mr. Calabrese:** We beat the market.

**Mr. Migliarese:** I save a minimum of 10% per month, and I don't do anything different, just sign the papers and send them in.

**Mr. Calabrese:** When you guys are dealing with the businesses and so forth, and maybe some of them already switched their companies, some may be locked into different contractors, I'll get into that in a second, but the one thing I think we should really try and do in this environment is to foster really a conscientiousness throughout our Town, State, and the Country and our companies being conscientious about cost and saving money. Let's face it, we're in a recession and I've never heard of a recession going away overnight. I mean we can give everyone bailout money and change presidents, but we're still going to have a recession so we all need to watch our pennies. It's a morale thing for some of these companies too, maybe they can't give a raise this year, but maybe if they put this in all the paychecks with a suggestion, hey by the way, we want to let you know you can save money with this, we want to share it with you. Maybe they're not getting a raise this year but they are getting 4 weeks of free electricity basically and anything at this point is good for company morale, it's just a nice little gesture, anything you can save is great.

Another idea is I've had a lot of businesspeople tell me that gee, it's only 10% off my bill, but it's only \$120 or whatever. But if you saw \$120 in the road, would you walk past it? There are 2 things a business needs to stay in business, customers for your products and services and the profit when you are done selling the products to your customers after you deduct your expenses. What's happening is we have this ever shrinking thing where we are cutting into our profit because of the recession and everything going on, so if we can save 10% on electricity and maybe that goes on through the people working, maybe their shutting off lights cause they're seeing your concern and they are concerned for their own company, maybe they are saving money doing something else just by being aware of this it's going to help drive that down because if the recession is bad and the economy is bad, well what do we do? If you raise prices to make up for this you may lose customers too, so it really pays to be diligent to cut costs wherever you can, whenever you can, cause if you don't you're just cheating yourself. I'd just like to see a healthy business environment in Town, obviously I would like everyone's business, but again I am a taxpayer in Town, and I don't want to see any businesses close. I think Joe Seacrist does a fantastic job of making people aware of what can and cannot, the businesspeople and what's available to them, you can see he's trying to help businesses in trouble, so I thought this would be a good forum to share this information cause we need to do what we can in Town, especially in these bad times.

Some people like locked in contracts because this is what I'm going to be paying for 5 years.

A lot of these people who locked in a few years ago have rates all the way up here, but they are locked in, and we're over here now, that's why we don't lock people in. There is discussion about possibly having a small locking period for some businesses that are concerned about budgeting, etc., which we may do, we're working on it, but the way I sell the product is it's really not necessary because you may be locking in a loss, instead of locking in a savings. Our business plan is always to be the lowest, always to beat the market and have the lowest so when you come with us, we're always moving our rate down to be where it has to be.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 4**

**Mr. Manno:** Where they get their power from, they can sell it cheaper?

**Mr. Calabrese:** We probably purchase it from the exact same place, it's just there is a lot less overhead.

**Mr. Migliarese:** That you have a different power supplier, but it's the same electricity.

**Mr. Manno:** But then that doesn't make any sense.

**Mr. Calabrese:** Sure it does.

**Mr. McGrail:** I went through this with the phone company. You can't store electricity, so when they generate electricity they generate 1,000,000 megawatts or whatever and they can only sell 800, the other 200 just goes up in smoke, so what happens is this guy comes in as an independent.

**Mr. Seacrist:** His point is they don't have trucks . . .

**Mr. Orsini:** We don't have any of the overhead that the other companies do so basically they're coming in and again we saw this deregulation through the phone company, the phone company did the same thing, and all these small businesses came in and cut the rates because they didn't have the overhead, and it's easy for someone to come in without the overhead to cut rates, but then we ran into a situation later on . . . .

**Mr. Migliarese:** The electric bill is split between generation and delivery where UI delivers it to us and they get their cut off of that, it's where they purchase it that you get the savings. So you purchase it from CL&P, they pay at a certain rate, versus the competition comes in and says well if they're generating .0015, I can buy it for .0010 from the public power.

**Mr. Orsini:** Do you realize though that Connecticut has one of the highest electric rates in the country?

**Mr. Migliarese:** That's why you should pay attention to what he's telling you.

**Mr. Orsini:** The reason we have the highest rates in the country is because of deregulation. Because what they did was they jacked the number up to a certain level, and then they came in underneath and they built in contracts, people bought into the contracts at a certain rate and then they came in and undercut it.

**Mr. Migliarese:** But since that is the case, deregulation is here, so if you choose not to go with him, pay more to CL&P.

**Mr. Orsini:** I'm not saying . . .

**Mr. Migliarese:** That's the basis of what we're talking about here.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 5**

**Mr. Seacrist:** The theory (inaudible) sub-broker power, but the theory was that CL&P buys for various, doesn't buy for UI, it buys for a portion of a very small state. Some of the big guys like Duke, etc. are buying for the nation so that if Connecticut doesn't need the power, they can ship it some place else, that's one of the reasons why they can do it cheaper, it's because they're buying in bigger quantities than CL&P. When I was at CL&P we used to encourage people to go to guys like Duke. The generation piece is a pass through for us, and if you can get it somewhere cheaper, plus the what they call the supplier of last resort, if for some reason these guys go belly up or disappear, CL&P steps in and . . . .

**Mr. Calabrese:** What I've been told is supposedly at any given time, any day, they have to have an overage of say 10% purchases, just in case anyone ever needs it, so they have it there so no one is ever without actual power.

**Mr. Manno:** In the summer when they have brownouts and you're only getting a certain portion, do you always get the same portion?

**Mr. Calabrese:** Yes, this will not affect that whatsoever. This has no affect on the brownouts at all. That has to do with just the demand, if there is a brownout, there will be one regardless of who is delivering it.

**Mr. Migliarese:** You have to understand, nothing changes. Everything is exactly the same way you've done for the last 40 years, except you will pay less.

**Mr. Calabrese:** Why it took awhile? The red tape in Connecticut for these companies to come in and get off the ground, it took like 3 to 4 years. Now we've just started to see the fruits of it where we have enough companies in where there is true competition, so now you're starting to see rates comes down. Quite frankly, I don't think UI or CL&P really care because they just raised the rates, and there was no reason to raise the rates in January.

**Mr. McGrail:** 2.5%.

**Mr. Seacrist:** On the distribution.

**Mr. Calabrese:** They raised the generation as well. The distribution is different because they're paying for capital projects throughout the State, but the generation portion, the cost of procuring electricity right now is cheaper than it was, but back 2 or 3 months ago, and now they're raising, and they went from .11973 for businesses up to .1242 for businesses. Residential was .11793 to .1221 so it's about 3.5% to 4% increase which to me just says they're looking to shut customers cause they don't want the capital expenditure and . . . .

**Mr. Orsini:** What it possibly could be is companies like yourself and I'm not saying this in a derogatory manner but if people are coming in and cherry picking all the good stuff off of, what ends up happening is CL&P ends up having to pick up the cost for the other people, so how do they do that without jacking up the rates, because they're the ones who are taking on the people who don't. I'm going to go, if I'm like you, I'm going to go to the major businesses and say I can save you 10%, and I'm going to take all of that business away from CL&P, now what is CL&P going to do?

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 6**

**Mr. Calabrese:** But that's not business for them. They're not making money, it's a pass through, a wash.

**Mr. Orsini:** I understand, but as you begin to take that business away from CL&P, they don't have it.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

**Mr. McGrail:** Wasn't there a time when they (inaudible) and then they sell it to Dominion, and then when we were at that meeting, now they could buy it back if they wanted to?

**Mr. Calabrese:** They're buying it back from a company (inaudible).

**Mr. McGrail:** Theoretically can't they go back into the power business now?

**Mr. Seacrist:** No, they were proposing it and they can sell it on very small peaking plants, they're not allowed (inaudible). These guys are regulated by the D.P.U.C., they had to jump through hoops to prove they are financially stable. Part of the D.P.U.C. is they don't allow brokers in this business unless they can prove they are financially stable to do it. To get to your point, Don, CL&P was always a bone of contention in our throat with all of these guys is that if you want to buy the power, fine, then if you go belly up, your customers are screwed, but the D.P.U.C. said no, you can't do that, you're a utility, CL&P still has to be a supplier of last resort, and we used to have to buy lots more power than we knew we were going to need in case somebody wasn't there to deliver it. You can't say to the customer, well I'm sorry about that. Well you could, in any other business you would, you'd say hey, you went to another supplier, tough luck, but it's a regulated utility and the D.P.U.C. said no, you still have to, so CL&P, as part of their rate increase and their overhead is they have to buy more power than they know they'll ever use, and these guys, we were always happy to see them come in, assuming that they'd stay in business. In the residential market when they deregulated commercial completely, the residential market they did not deregulate completely, they said we're going to deregulate it, but because it's going to be a shock and everybody is going to be asking these questions, well what do I do and how do I get it, they said we'll give you a (inaudible) locked in I believe for 10 years, at the 1996 price. Well none of these guys could beat that price and CL&P kept asking to please get relieved from this (inaudible) offer we had to offer.

**Mr. Calabrese:** Cause it was costing them money, too, right?

**Mr. Seacrist:** We were losing money because the Legislature said to protect people in this turmoil period for 10 years your rates were locked in, so none of these guys showed up then because they couldn't beat a 1996 electricity price. In 2006 when that went away, that's when a lot of these guys came alive. They'd love to have your residential business but they make their money on the commercial side.

**Ms. Church:** What about the Town and stuff like that?

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 7**

**Mr. Calabrese:** Both the Board of Education and the Town itself are already using Public Power & Utility, as far as I've been told, cause I've seen the paper how they're cutting utility lights and stuff, I said gee, you're going to shut lights off on the streets to save this amount and I can come in and save you maybe 10%, but I was told that they were hooked up with power.

**Mr. Seacrist:** We buy it through a consortium.

**Mr. Calabrese:** Who works for us so do I know if every part of the Town is involved with that. I know the Board of Education is, and I was told the Town was, so everything is covered under that already.

**Mr. Seacrist:** They are.

**Mr. Calabrese:** So if anyone wants a card, I have some.

**Mr. Calabrese:** CL&P is starting to propose to residential customers and they're testing, they call it a time abuse meter, cause right now as a residential customer you pay a flat fee regardless of what you use. Businesses have this on peak/off peak, they pay more during on peak hours than they do off peak hours and CL&P is getting a little sneaky and saying well people want to save money, so we ought to offer them this. I have a bias there. I think you should not accept the time of use meter because the peak hours are, I believe, 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. I'm not home, I don't use any power, I can save money, but don't forget your water heater, don't forget your refrigerator, don't forget your furnace, cause they run all the time, so you have to have a good handle on your load, cause one of the reasons they do this is to make more money on time of use. They would like to have you guys pay more for using electricity during the day than at night because you're likely to conserve and it will help them (inaudible) so their positioning it as a great money savings for individuals, but I say make sure you know your load factor before you do it. If you want to unplug your refrigerator every morning and your furnace, and if you want to unplug your water heater every morning, you would probably save money on a time of use, but otherwise stick with what you've got.

**Mr. Calabrese:** UI actually January 1<sup>st</sup> started for businesses, after the first 200 kilowatt hours, for a business that might be an hour, they go to automatic, on peak/off peak. Their thing is when they lowered their rate for businesses, well they lowered it for the first 200 kilowatt hours and the on peak/off peak went through the roof. When the new rates came out January 1<sup>st</sup> and we saw the fine print on that, we were just . . . you know. . . .

**Mr. Seacrist:** Jason probably wouldn't want me to say this but it sounds to people like a scam because they don't understand it, they say wait a minute, this is too good to be true, I don't have to sign anything, I don't have a contract, I'm not locked in, you can change it any time you want, and you can, cause D.P.U.C. put that in there, but anytime you're unhappy you can go back to CL&P:

**Mr. Calabrese:** No, I tell people that.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 8**

**Mr. Seacrist:** The same way, you just call CL&P and say I'm not happy, I want to go back to you, sign another piece of paper and you're back.

**Mr. Calabrese:** That goes back to the thing about being locked in, so we could lock in at a rate and say it's 2% or 3% lower than what someone would lock in at, and they'll say well we'll lock you in for 24 months or 36 months. So you say well, things only go up, so you say well, you might as well stay with us and if all the sudden our rates go up and you want to go and get locked in, you can go and we're not stopping you, but if you are with them for 3 years and rates go down like they're going down now, or are going to be going down, cause we have a projection for the next few months, you're stuck, you're losing money, so you're locking in a loss instead of locking in a savings.

**Mr. Migliarese:** You can literally change every month or any time you want.

**Mr. Calabrese:** If your meter is read Monday and you sign up today, you might get it in on the next bill, but if your meter was read yesterday and you sign up today you're going to receive two bills, it's just a matter of when you sign up.

**Mr. Manno:** Are you doing a mailing out to local residential addresses in Town about this?

**Mr. Calabrese:** No, that would be quite costly.

**Mr. Seacrist:** See that's the problem, overhead again.

**Mr. Orsini:** Residential is okay if it comes along, but that's not where they're . . . .

**Mr. Manno:** When Dominion started the . . . .

**Mr. Migliarese:** (Inaudible) sent the mailing out. That's how I got it, and I threw the first one away, then one day I had nothing to do so I read the second one thoroughly and I said it's too good to be true, I mean why is somebody giving me a gift here.

**Mr. Calabrese:** Do you know why I work for this company? Cause I begged them to let me be a consultant, cause I was like you, I was with Dominion, and the other one too, I was with Energy first, then Dominion, and then this one came out and they were much lower, so I can do this all day long, tell people how to save money. At the time they didn't have consultants and I kept hounding them and then after awhile they opened up this marketing office in Waterbury and I ended up being able to do it, yea, it's too good to be true but I've been a consumer for like 13 months and I'm happy as can be.

**Ms. Church:** Joe, what about your list of businesses?

**Mr. Seacrist:** Well I have to be careful about endorsing anybody.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 9**

**Mr. Calabrese:** Well I wanted to make him aware so that if there was a business that comes to you and they're bleeding and they're like, some of the stuff you can say, not that this is the #1 thing that they should do but one thing they can do. This should come up in the conversation cause they can save "x" amount of dollars, no matter how little it may seem, "x" amount of dollars is still saved.

**Mr. Migliarese:** (Inaudible) whether you're looking to cut or not, it's just a management decision. If somebody is offering you something, you sign your name and you're going to save 10%, and not do anything different than you did before, why wouldn't you do it? (Inaudible) as skeptical cause you don't get anything for nothing.

**Mr. Seacrist:** With Drive-Sol, talking about natural gas and if you're in economic distress and you're threatening to leave the State, the gas company has to give you what's called an economic development rate which is 30% cheaper. Because they're in economic trouble and because they're threatening to leave the State, they automatically can cut their natural gas bill by 30% and they didn't know that, most people don't know that, and things like this seem too good to be true, but if you have to prove you're in economic trouble by having work or, D.E.C.D., and if you're threatening to leave the State if things don't get better, then you qualify for the rate automatically. That combined with this can save some energy.

**Mr. Migliarese:** Now you can have a discussion on whether deregulation is right or wrong, there are merits to both sides of it, but the long and short of it is we are in deregulation (Tape #1, Side A ended – may have missed some).

**4. Minutes**

A. Regular Meeting – December 18, 2008

MOTION: (Mr. Migliarese, sec. Ms. Church) to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated December 18, 2008 as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**5. Correspondence**

Mr. Seacrist reported a thank you note was received from Mr. Panczykowski, who sold the Oster Building, thanking us for helping them through the Planning and Zoning Commission process.

Mr. Seacrist reported a thank you note was received from Boards-Up, a new business in Town that manufactures snowboards, thanking us for helping them through the Planning and Zoning Commission process.

**6. Economic Development Coordinator's Report**

Mr. Seacrist gave a report (attached). A lengthy discussion ensued.

**7. New Business**

A. Letter to Governor Rell regarding Route 8 Sign

Mr. McGrail reported this was already discussed under the Coordinator's Report.

B. EDC Budget

Mr. Seacrist explained the budget. A lengthy discussion ensued.

MOTION: (Mr. Migliarese, sec. Mr. Manno) to add Agenda Item 7C, Relocation of Waterbury/Watertown Town Line, and 7D, Letter of Congratulations to Jack Traver.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Relocation of Waterbury/Watertown Town Line

Mr. McGrail reported there is an on-going discussion between Waterbury and Watertown to swap land. Watertown would give up some land in back of the old Chase Brass on Thomaston Avenue and also some land at the end of Chase River Road, where Napoli used to be. In exchange for that we would get the entire Pin Shop and then the property, if you run down Watertown Avenue down to Falls Avenue, so the old Argene's, the John Deer dealer, and I think there is one other building there. We'd pickup \$300 and Waterbury would lose \$500.

Mr. Migliarese disagreed and said the paper had it just the opposite way, with Watertown losing about \$400.

Mr. McGrail stated it was sort of an even swap.

Mr. Seacrist explained Waterbury received \$15,000,000 from Chris Murphy to remediate the Chase Brass property. Jim Mullen, who used to be on the Oversight Board for Waterbury, is representing Waterbury in this deal. The Waterbury Board of Alderman approved the land swap last week and they need to move fast in order to get the \$15,000,000 spent on remediation so that they can build their public works garage on that property. This was also approved at the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission meeting last night. Mr. Mullen felt it wouldn't hurt if this Commission sent a letter to the Town Council supporting this land swap. He went ahead and drafted a letter in case the Commission wanted to support the land swap and send a letter to the Town Council.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 11**

MOTION: (Mr. Migliarese, sec. Ms. Church) to send a letter to the Town Council supporting the land swap.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. McGrail stated it would be a benefit to the taxpayers who used to be in Waterbury and will now be in Watertown, cause of the reduced mill rate, but from the Town's perspective, it's a wash as far as the land swap itself.

Mr. Seacrist explained both towns would have to approve of the land swap, and then it had to go to the State Legislature for their approval as well. The reason Waterbury wants this property in Watertown is because they cannot seize it by eminent domain for back taxes, but once it's in Waterbury they can do that. It's their biggest delinquent taxpayer, so as soon as they get the property they're going to take it by eminent domain. Waterbury will pay Watertown whatever back taxes are owed to Watertown as the new property owner.

D. Letter of Congratulations to Jack Traver

Mr. McGrail explained the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Harold Webster Smith Award will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Southbury and one of the recipients of that award is our own Jack Traver. Traver I.D.C. is going to receive the Manufacturer of the Year Award and Mr. Seacrist suggested we send a resolution.

MOTION: (Ms. Church sec. Mr. Migliarese) to send a Resolution to Jack Traver congratulating him on receiving the 12th Annual Harold Webster Smith Award for Manufacturer of the Year.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Seacrist reported if anyone wanted to go, it was a breakfast meeting and the Commission still had money in the budget. It's from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**8. Old and Unfinished Business**

A. Update – Griffin School

Mr. McGrail stated there is nothing to report. He will call Joe Yamin, but he already knows what his answer will be.

B. Update – Visits to Local Manufacturing Facilities

Mr. McGrail reported this was discussed earlier under the Coordinator's Report.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 15, 2009**

**Page 12**

C. Meet and Greet 2009

Mr. McGrail reported the money will be in the budget and we plan on doing it again this year, and we should start focusing on the details of this event.

Mr. Seacrist asked if he could get a sense of whether this Commission wanted to do a Winter Festival?

A brief discussion ensued. It was decided this Festival was worth pursuing, but it's more important to survey the businesses to see if they support the idea.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the formation of an alternate council to represent the business owners in Watertown, versus joining the Chamber of Commerce.

(Tape #2, Side A ended – may have missed some.)

Mr. Traver, Vice Chairman, arrived at this time, about 9:00 p.m. (no time given).

D. Projects being Proposed for Expected Stimulus Package

Mr. McGrail reported this was already discussed under the Coordinator's Report.

E. Update – Post Office

Mr. McGrail reported this was already discussed under the Coordinator's Report.

F. Signage for Route 8

Mr. McGrail reported this was already discussed under the Coordinator's Report.

G. Business Park Update

Mr. McGrail stated there was nothing to report. He thought it was in litigation at this time, so nothing will be done until that case is resolved. A brief discussion ensued.

H. Meeting with Town Council Subcommittee

Mr. McGrail reported he will ask Mr. Primini, Chairman of the Business Development Committee, a Subcommittee of the Town Council, to have a quarterly joint meeting with this Commission in March, as discussed previously.

**Watertown Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 15, 2009**  
**Page 14**

**9. Adjournment**

MOTION: (Mr. Traver, sec. Ms. Church) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph McGrail, Chairman  
Watertown Economic Development Commission

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk