

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 12/18/08

Submitted by Joseph Seacrist

- 1. EDC, the Town and state government officials will begin a series of individual meetings with Watertown's largest employers in the coming weeks. Meetings are currently scheduled with Crystal Rock Water and Watertown Plastics. It is assumed that Shelter Logic and Drivesol will also ask for meetings, since they contacted us with several questions before scheduling. Only one manufacturer has indicated they did not desire to have such a meeting.**
- 2. Had a discussion with Mark Maribito with Watertown Renewable Energy (Tamarack Energy) concerning their plans for the wood chip burning plant in Watertown. He indicated that the company had all the permits necessary to begin construction which originally had been planned for this winter or spring of 2009. Because of the national credit crunch, their need for more than \$100 million dollars is taking more time than they thought. This will mean a delay in breaking ground for the plant until at least mid to later 2009. Tamarack indicates they have a viable equity partner, but with the credit markets currently frozen the money is not available to anyone. There should be no concern about the plant happening, it is just delayed.**
- 3. Had another discussion with the owner of the Pin shop concerning his dedication of a portion of his building in Watertown for retail. He was also interested in the newspaper article concerning possibly including all of the pin shop into Watertown's tax base.**
- 4. The EDC, on behalf of the Town, and since I represent the Town on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, co-sponsored the annual holiday gathering for members of the Chamber at the country club of Waterbury last week.**
- 5. Concerning 2009-2010 budgets for the town, the EDC has the following dates:**
 - a. Friday January 16-Town Hall Annex @3:30 the first departmental budget review session.**
 - b. Tuesday January 27-Town Hall Annex @11:00 am, the second departmental budget review session.**
 - c. Thursday March 5-Town Hall Annex @8:30 pm, the Town Council Finance Sub-Committee Budget review session.**

- 6. Communicated with the VP of Biswanger Industrial realty concerning several possible sites in Watertown for a client he has who would like either to buy an existing building of 30-40,000sf or build one in Watertown. We had several possible locations available.**
- 7. Had a discussion with the Chairman of the EDC and the Town Manager concerning some long-range and short range planning for the economic development of the town, to include a possible co-op advertising campaign with some local developers.**
- 8. Had some extremely preliminary discussions concerning the possibility of a large retailer locating along main street.**
- 9. Noticed that the Overhead Door Company of Danbury has erected their own sign outside the former Velocity Printing Building on New Wood road, so I assume all zoning issues for their leasing space in the building have been resolved.**
- 10. Apparently work has begun on connecting a water main between falls avenue and ledge road to eventually provide more water to the business park.**