

**Economic Development  
Committee**

Stephen Costello, Chairman  
William Plasko, Vice-Chairman  
Alan Slater  
Scott Murphy  
Thomas Wynne



**Planning and Economic  
Development Director**  
Paul Halkiotis

**General Manager**  
John J. Carroll

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Norwood Economic Development Meeting – September 30, 2015

Present: Bill Plasko, Alan Slater, Tom Wynne, Scott Murphy, Steve Costello, Paul Halkiotis, Planning Director

Factory Mutual Insurance CO. TIF Problem

Present: Atty. Kevin Gammons, Hobbs Brook Management

Mr. Halkiotis talked about the Committee's concerns regarding the TIF that was granted to FM Global. The number of full time employees in 2012 when the TIF was granted was 629 and subsequently it decreased to 586 by the end of 2014.

Atty. Gammons explained that some employees left the facility when it was located at River Ridge because of a corporate relocation of a department to Johnston, RI. They have been hiring people and now have 586 employees, 6 management, 8 professionals, 4 skilled and 35 unskilled. Atty. Gammons said that they are doing everything they can to hire people and not just hiring people but skilled people and professionals and that is reflected in their reporting.

Atty. Gammons said that he knows that they will be back to that 629 figure or surpass it well before the TIF runs its course and he asked for the Committee's support.

Mr. Murphy talked about the increase in the property taxes for FM Global that the Town received from the 40 million dollar investment in the new building.

Mr. Costello said that his concern was establishing precedent and what Atty. Gammons verbally related was that the trend is certainly improving. Mr. Costello would like a letter (on their letterhead) giving the up to date employment data for FM Global.

Mr. Plasko and Mr. Wynne continue to support the TIF for FM Global.

**Motion** was made and seconded not to rescind the TIF for FM Global subject to receiving a letter memorializing this conversation relative to the actual hires and at what levels.

**Vote Unanimous motion passed**

Atty. Gammons agreed to send a letter with the employment numbers and Mr. Halkiotis will respond to the State on this matter.

Potential Zoning Amendment in the Manufacturing Zone

Mr. Halkiotis recommend that they table any discussion at this time because he hasn't been able to discuss this with the Planning Board.

Expedited Permitting 43D on former Polaroid land

Mr. Halkiotis handed out information on the Polaroid site that included a map showing two parcels that are vacant and undeveloped. Mr. Halkiotis rated these parcels as highly buildable, moderately buildable and unbuildable. Mr. Halkiotis said that the Boston Skating Club is looking at one of these sites. Mr. Plasko said that he thought the last parcel was all wetlands and unbuildable. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Costello said he feels that 43D is a marketing advantage regardless of any restrictions on any of these parcels. The consensus of the EDC Committee is to move forward with Expedited Permitting (43D) on the former Polaroid land. Mr. Halkiotis told the Committee that he has not had any response from the owners. The Committee decided to wait until the Spring Town Meeting to bring this forward.

Vacancy on the Committee

Mr. Costello asked if there was a mission statement showing a new member what is expected so the Committee doesn't engage in topics other than to foster economic and commercial development and increasing the commercial and industrial tax for the Town.

Mr. Costello will do a draft mission statement if there is none. Mr. Halkiotis noted that there are currently five members and asked if the Committee wanted to add more. Mr. Plasko feels that five members is a manageable number and if there is someone with expertise on a certain matter, they could come to the Committee as an expert.

The EDC meeting adjourned.