

Economic Development Update

March 5, 2014

Telecommunications

The attorney who is handling the coordination of the AT&T cell tower on Dover Hill Road has indicated that the service should be operational by June, 2014. It is unclear at this time if any other major carriers such as Verizon will be available.

Cellular Resiliency in Natural Disasters

On Monday, February 24, Economic Development met with Dave Malko, Senior Project Manager, VTA, and Murray Stone, Northern Reliability (NR) Service Representative. The purpose of this meeting was to zero in on a site to deploy back-up power to the Town of Dover provided by NR's battery energy storage systems (BESS) combined with a solar component. In a previous meeting in October 2012, four potential sites, the West Dover Firehouse, West Dover Police Station, the Town Office Building and the Town Hall were identified. It was determined by VTA and NR that Town Hall would be the most strategic location for such a system. Murray did a site inspection, took measurements for space allocation for equipment, solar availability and current power supply. The unit is 12' x 12' x 10' and is best located midway between the large tree near the daycare facility and the daycare playground.

The following is a brief background on the grant program extracted from the VTA website:

The U.S. Department of Economic Development (EDA) has awarded the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) a \$1.6 million grant to help deploy resilient cellular and broadband services to nine towns extensively damaged by Tropical Storm Irene and other 2011 flooding.

The VTAs Cellular Resiliency Project is focused on communities that experienced the greatest amounts of financial damage. Other factors in the project parameters include those towns that either didn't have cell and broadband service before the flooding or their cell and broadband services were interrupted by direct damage and/or power outages.

The funding will add infrastructure in two ways: expanded cellular service on roadways and WiFi "hotspots" in the towns. Cellular service will be expanded on 120 miles of roadway in Addison County, Essex County, Washington County, Windham County and Windsor County. Nine communities, which took part in the grant planning, will gain communication hotspots: Dover, Halifax, Hancock, Norton, Rochester, Roxbury, Stockbridge, Townshend and Whitingham.

The hotspots will involve both wireless Internet and cellular service. They will be able to operate during power outages through solar power sources and will include secondary broadband connections available if the main connection is damaged.

This grant to the VTA was funded through the federal fiscal year 2012 Disaster Relief Opportunity notice and administered through the EDA, a sub-agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The EDA awards disaster grants to support a community's long-term recovery, spur job creation, leverage private investment, and promote elements that support potential future needs for disaster recovery. The Governor's office and Vermont's Congressional delegation actively supported this funding proposal.

Website

Carlo and I have discussed the town website and looked at several examples. We agree that a committee should be established to determine needed functionality and then evaluate the necessary approach to implement.

Trails

Vtrans has indicated that they will have an initial set of comments regarding the preliminary plan by the 1st week of March. Roger Dickinson will be at our offices on Monday, March 3 to speak with all of the property owners affected by an easement. This meeting will review the proposed design and answer any questions that property owners might have. We are holding this meeting with the entire group, initially, so that property owners can get the benefit of each others' questions. All affected parties have been invited.

We are working with the Windham Regional Commission to develop the proper wording for the Scoping Study RFP involving the B+ portion of the Valley Trail. As a reminder, that route will go from the Post Office, north along Route 100 in the state right of way and terminate at Stugger Road (West Dover Firehouse). It is then intended that the trail will proceed up Stugger Road to Kingswood Condominiums.

As a result of the Route 100 Bridge 59 meetings, it appears that the proposed replacement bridge will have 2, 6 foot shoulders on either side of the road to be used as a bike/ped path in addition to the 2, 11 foot travel lanes. This negates the need for a costly bridge on either side of the trail.

A discussion with Roger Dickinson was held to review the need for better communication and meeting stated objectives. The submission of the preliminary plan to Vtrans, was delayed by 1 month with no explanation or notice. Roger indicated that he would do a better job at communicating progress and delays so that the appropriate individuals in the town can be properly informed.

Beautification

The barrel project for 2014 has been awarded to Boyd Family Farm.

Meeting with Windham Regional Commission and Brattleboro Development Corp.

On Tuesday, February 11, EDD met with Susan McMahon and Kim Smith of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) and Wendy Rae-Woods of the Brattleboro Development Corp. regarding strategies for village revitalization with grant money available in the wake of Hurricane Irene. Topics discussed included

- Revitalization project for the Village of East Dover:
A public meeting will need to be scheduled to discuss the nature of the revitalization project and subsequently, a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Enhancement Grant must be created to move forward toward securing revitalization grant dollars.
- Landscaping for Valley Trail A:
A LOI must also be written to secure funding for an Enhancement Grant.
- The Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Initiative (WRBRI):

Brownfields are land and buildings whose expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

WRBRI was established in 2000 with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since that time the WRC has been working hard to promote vibrant communities by facilitating brownfields redevelopment. WRC Susan McMahon alerted EDD to funding available to support phase I assessment of site eligibility and phase II testing for extent of contamination. Phase I funding, approximately \$2,000 available to a private, public or non-profit party interested in the purchase of a property, researches the historical use of said property to determine the likelihood that some form of environmental contamination is present. Phase II funding, approximately \$20,000-\$30,000 provides soil borings, soil sample collection, well water monitoring and ground water sampling to determine the presence of contaminants as well as testing for contaminants like lead and asbestos. Susan also noted there is funding available for clean-up. Examples where Brownfields funding would apply include sites that may have been previously used by a gas station or manufacturing associated with wood or paper. Following such a project, the property would then be eligible for state liability protection to the owner.

Marketing

The state has agreed to install directional signs to Dover at Routes 9 and 100 in Wilmington on both the East and West approaches. The state has indicated that by statute, there can only be 2 directional signs at any intersection. The following 3 locations already have the requisite 2 directional signs and therefore our request has been denied.

- Routes 100 and 30 in Wardsboro
- Route 30 and Williamsville Road
- Route 30 and Grimes Hill Road

We still have 9 applicants for the DASP program totaling \$11,424 of the \$24,000 allocated. This amounts to 47.6%. To date we have paid \$4,021.30. I continue to encourage businesses to apply for the funds, but with few takers. This is unchanged from last month.

The DO-IT program is again unchanged from last month. We still have 10 of the 14 businesses for the 2013/2014 program that have already finished their projects and received the rebates. This totals \$23,848 of the \$32,500 allocated for the 2013/2014 fiscal year, or 73.4%. The remainder of the businesses will have until June 30, 2014 to complete their projects. It is anticipated that the remainder of the businesses will complete their projects after the winter.

Events

The summary report has been received from the Dover Historical Society and accepted. Final payment of \$500 (remaining 25%) from their Building a Better Resource event of 2013 has been paid.

For the FY 2013/2014, we have committed \$51,144.95 against a budget of \$39,000, leaving a deficit of \$12,144.95. That results in commitments of 131.14% of the events budget for FY '13 – '14. To date we have still not received the final Summary Report for last year's Mothers' For Daughters event. This report is supposed to be submitted within 90 days of the event to obtain the final 25%. That was August 19, 2013. They have repeatedly indicated that the report was sent, but to date we never received it. In that it is 6 months late, I'm still recommending that the funds be forfeited unless an acceptable explanation can be offered. In addition, I fully expect to get an application for the 2014 Mothers' For Daughters event. Last year they requested and received \$7,500.

Venue

Nothing new to report.

Bi-Town

We have met with Gretchen Havreluk, in her Wilmington office, to review the map of the Dover/Wilmington Trail that Jeff Nugent, Windham Regional's mapping and GIS specialist, is developing for the two towns. These maps will be posted on the kiosks in both Dover and Wilmington. Dover will order 3 kiosks from Travis Wendel of Pioneer Timber Frames at \$765 each, to be installed in the May timeframe. We will re-confirm the price with Travis. There was no meeting in February due to the weather, but one is expected on March 6.

Revenue

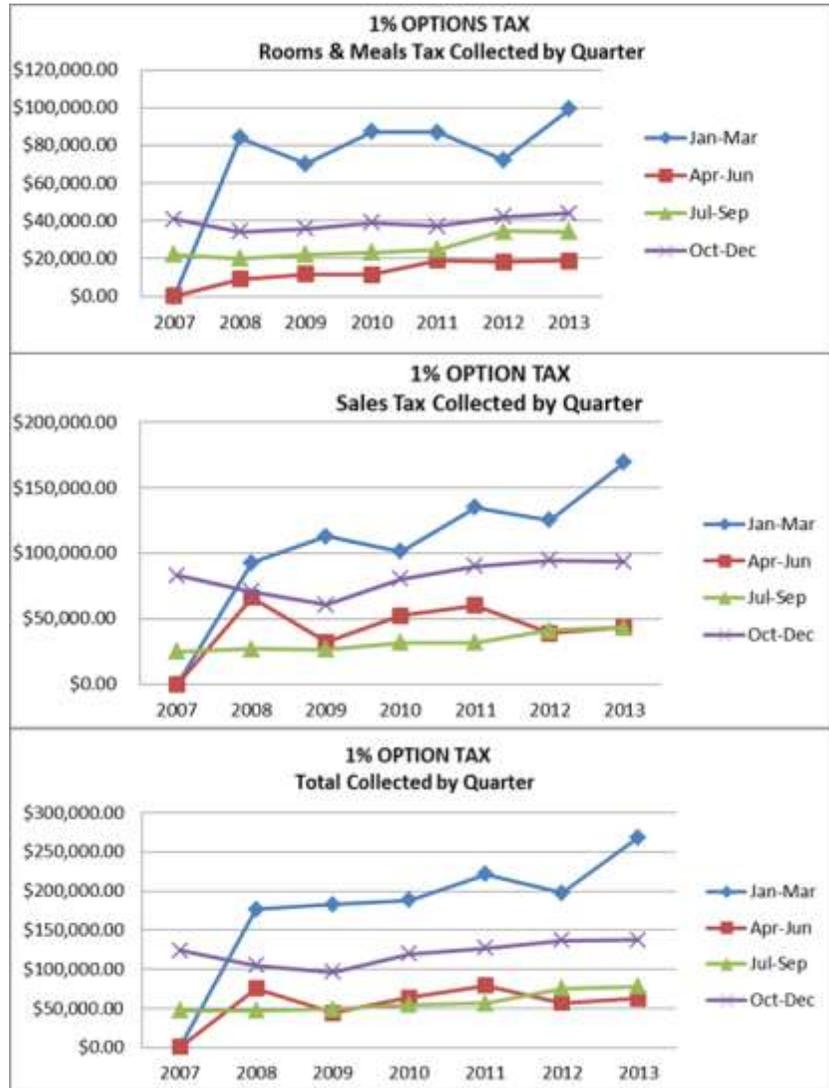
The 4th quarter 2013 revenue numbers are in from the state as follows:

Meals & Rooms	\$43,848.87	Up 3.9% over 4 th quarter 2012
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Sales \$93,102.38 Down 1.3% over 4th quarter 2012

Total Tax Collected \$136,951.25 Up 0.32% over 4th quarter 2012

4th quarter 2013 is the largest total tax collected of any 4th quarter, but only by \$439.36. Revenues are still showing a slight upward trend.



Financial

Full statements are included under separate cover.