

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

May 5, 2006                      Pease Development Authority Conference Room                      7:30 a.m.

Members Present:    Dana Levenson, Chairman; Everett Eaton, Vice-Chairman, Cliff Taylor, William Gladhill, Edward Hayes, Robin McIntosh, Paul Harvey Sr., Lisa DeStefano  
 Thomas Ferrini, John P. Bohenko; City Manager

Member Excused:    Michael Murray, Ned Raynolds

Staff present:        Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Program Manager

Chairman Levenson opened the meeting at 7:35 am and thanked Acting Executive Director David Mullen of the Pease Development Authority (PDA) for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to accept the minutes of April 7, 2006 as amended. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gladhill and passed unanimously.

**Presentation: Pease Development Authority Activity Update**

Using a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Russ Thibeault of Applied Economic Research, Inc., David Mullen, PDA Acting Executive Director presented an update on the development of the Pease International Tradeport. He reviewed the guiding principals for the PDA being creation of jobs and development of the airport at Pease. He also outlined the terms of the Public Benefit Transfer from the Air Force to the State when the Pease Air Force Base closed in 1989.

Currently companies at Pease employ 6400 people. Tracking the regional trends, growth sectors at Pease include insurance/finance, business services, education/health services and government. Economic sectors experiencing a decline are manufacturing, specifically in the information technology area.

Total completed and committed building area at Pease is nearly 4.5 million square feet resulting in nearly 10,000 jobs in the region. This employment has an annual wage impact of \$500 million consisting of \$352M on the Tradeport and \$97M in induced wages offsite. Despite the soft NH economy in the past year, the Tradeport remains financially strong with over \$13M in revenues. Payments to the City of Portsmouth for taxes and service fees were \$4.2 M in 2005. The Pease Golf Course has been a success while the airport struggles to find a niche amongst competing airports in Boston, Ma, Manchester, NH and Portland, Me.

Following a brief question and answer period, the EDC boarded a bus for a tour of new development at Pease.

**Brief Presentation on International Trade Resource Center (ITRC) at Pease**

The EDC traveled by bus to the International Trade Resource Center at Pease where Director Dawn Wivell and Assistant Director Karen Wyman provided a brief presentation of the services and activities of the Center. With time being too short to cover all the work of the organization, the EDC invited the

ITRC representatives to an EDC meeting in the fall to learn more about the agency and to discover ways to work more collaboratively.

### **Old Business and Updates**

- *Planning Board Meeting on Proposed Northern Tier Zoning Amendments*

City Manager Bohenko told the EDC that the Planning Board will host a public hearing on amendments proposed to the zoning ordinance by HarborCorp representatives. The meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2006 in City Council Chambers. By consensus the EDC agreed that Chairman Levenson could appear on behalf of the EDC to speak to the economic development objectives of the City's partnership with HarborCorp for construction of a public parking garage associated with an expanded conference facility.

City Council Action on EDC Recommendations:

- *Tax Increment Financing*

City Manager Bohenko informed the EDC that the City Council held a public hearing at the April 14, 2006 meeting on the adoption of RSA 162:K. In order to comply with the law that require a fifteen day period between the public hearing and action on the chapter, the City Council is scheduled to vote on adoption of RSA 162:K at the May 15, 2006 City Council meeting. Members of the EDC are welcome to attend and speak at the public comment period.

- *Subcommittee Reports*

The EDC WiFi subcommittee (Dana, Robin, Scott Campbell, Ginny Griffith and Alan Brady) met on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The group invited representatives of Single Digits, Bayring Communications and Port City Web to discuss the potential of expanding the City's WiFi hot spots. Collectively the attendees developed a strategy to potentially expand the existing free municipal wireless network.

- *City/Chamber Partnership on Tourism and Business Development*

Ms. Carmer informed the Commission that the City Council voted to extend the City/Chamber Partnership on Tourism and Business Development for another year.

### **Public Comment Period**

There was no public comment period.

### **Next Meeting Date**

June 2, 2006 is the next scheduled meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy M. Carmer  
Economic Development Program Manager