

Agenda for TEDC meeting
January 14, 2014
6 PM, Cook Library

The Tamworth Economic Development Council hosted a meeting of representatives from five towns to hear about TIF, or creating Tax Increment Financing Districts to finance a town's infrastructure and enhance business opportunities. A TIF is a financing and investment tool to provide funding for public improvements that are intended to stimulate positive economic development activity that will not otherwise occur to expand the municipal tax base.

"A TIF district does not change zoning requirements, nor increase taxes within a District, nor create special fees or assessments within the District, nor change property rights.

Examples of the kind of improvements that TIF can support are: new or upgraded streets or sidewalks, traffic signals, sewer collection and disposal, public water supply, parking, landscaping and other public improvements, etc.

How does a TIF work? A TIF "District" is established by vote of Town Council (RSA 169K) – defined by specific parcels to be included. On the date of formation the assessor certifies that base value, or the "original assessed value." Future increased values due to development are identified each year by the assessor, referred to as "captured assessed value." Up to 100% of the taxes generated by the "captured assessed value" can be used for implementation of the plan. Any portion of the "captured assessed value" not needed for the district plan is returned to the general fund. The Town must annually certify "captured assessed value" calculation to the Commissioner of Revenue Administration. The tax revenue from the new "captured assessed value" can be used only for plan implementation in the district. Once the designated plan has been implemented and improvements are paid for, the district ceases to exist and all future tax revenues generated in the district go to the general revenue of the Town." (Information taken from the PowerPoint is available from TEDC upon request.)

About 22 people were present, including Selectmen and Planning Board Members from Albany, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, and Tamworth. House Representatives Susan Ticehurst and Mark McConkey also attended. Jac Cuddy, executive director of the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council presented the details of TIF describing how this state program can help a town finance infrastructure growth. Specific details were provided in the distributed informational packets.

The TIF meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM and the TEDC board convened its regular meeting.

TEDC Members Present:

Kelly Goodson, Willie Farnum, Jim Hidden, Pat Farley, and Ellie Griffin

Meeting called to order at 8 PM

Approve November Minutes – Yes

Committee reports

TAMWIRELESS – (Report from Dennis Quinn via email)

- Time Warner / Fairpoint has only eroded two of the TW clients. TamWireless has gained three new clients.
- Re: the new connection in Madison: the population is sparse, and any future additional infrastructure would be costly and likely not be supported by return. DSL exists in the area and it is likely to be improved like the DSL in Wonalancet.
The impact of Time Warner (Fairpoint) on Tamwireless to date:
We lost 2 accounts entirely. So far several part time residents who were paying year round have shifted to paying part time. Part time payment is not an available option with Fairpoint,
- BUT we've gained three new accounts, and taken on both the Remick Farm and Museum and The Community School as both Internet Service Providers and IT support services. Current client numbers are 127ish total, but changing types: more people shifting to part time, and we have acquired two accounts from local institutions like the Farm and School.
- Our outlook for future? We realize that even after Fairpoint and others reach their coverage goals there will be households that will be outside of their reach. Also, we are finding that more and more of our members are content creators and require upload speeds that are still not available from most residential ISP's.
We have offered "symmetrical" options, the same upload as download, so that's another advantage for a while.
For the future, we are looking at revenue from sources other than providing internet. We are well equipped to provide specialized institutional network support, and bandwidth management, we are already providing these services to local companies and institutions who had no idea they would need the services just a few years ago.
We are also getting inquiries from both institutions and private residents about Virtual Private Network and "Local Cloud" services. Tamworth Wireless is uniquely positioned with our secure Town-wide network, and we are testing these services on a limited private scale currently.
Short answer: TW is evolving into a "Boutique IT Services" company, with Internet as the primary, but not only, service we provide.

TEEN LEADERSHIP –

- **School Involvement:** The day before Thanksgiving, Pat met with the Principal of Brett School and he was enthusiastic about the Tamworth Teen Leadership program. He said that there is no money in the school budget to support it, but we might think of it like the 4-H club, which has its own budget, etc., but is covered by the school district's insurance. However, he has not gotten back to Pat yet about this. So far, the school is not interested in funding and supporting this initiative. We hope that will change. We hope that the school will support the program, will vet the volunteers.

- **Budget for Teen Leadership:** We asked for \$2500, but only \$2250 was approved. \$750 is for the development of the Teen Leadership Program by the Board of Selectmen.

The Selectmen had approved the \$2500 budget that was presented in December. Jim was in favor of supporting it. But it was then decided in January by a 2:1 vote to have none of the budgeted Leadership money spent on the implementation of the Teen Leadership program (development of the program was okayed) because of liability to the town if this is considered under the auspices of the town government. The budget was then reduced to \$2250. Steve was worried about deviants working with kids. John is not supportive of the program as it currently stands because he feels that anything for youth should be done through the school. The argument was raised that the town supported and held liability for the swim and baseball programs.

- TEDC needs to consider three things: how to vet volunteers, how to deal with liability through the school department and how to fund the program. The Teen Leadership sub-committee will meet in the near future to discuss these issues and will report back to the TEDC.

Next meeting: February 11, at 6 PM in Cook Library

Action items:

1. Follow-up with Ken Hawkins
and meet with Donna Ulitz to enlist her help
2. Teen subcommittee meets.... Ellie, Kelly, Pat
3. Connections: Local Agriculture sources/ buyers.... Jim, Pat

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM