

HAMDEN TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting of

February 4th, 2010

Attending: E. Ariori, W. Folsom, U.M. Ford, S. Glenn, L. Salay, C. Sette, W. Spalter

Absent: S. Seaforth

Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Settee

Approval of minutes – Chairman Sette entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2010. Mr. Folsom noted the in the Approval of Minutes, the word “minuets” should be *minutes*. Mr. Salay motioned to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Ms. Glenn. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Old Business

- a. Discussion on the Spring project and meeting with Quinnipiac faculty and students – Chairman Sette met with Prof. Halawi first then later with the student with Mr. Spalter on the phone. Chairman Sette explained to Prof. Halawi the process of local governments as Prof. Halawi is not from the U.S. and Mr. Sette provided a substantial amount of information for her. Chairman Sette provided the summary draft to the Professor and the students. The draft basically states *“the project is designed to determine if there are any advantages to Hamden by establishing a closer working relationship between the I.T. Department of the Town and the Board of Education.”* The Commission would like the students to review various towns and their relationship to their Boards of Education and the advantages/disadvantages of sharing information. Chairman Sette explained the workings of the parties involved and the budget process in that the money is the town’s money but when it goes to the Board of Education the town has no control of how the money is spent. Chairman Sette explained that this is going to be a two part study. The first part will be exploring other towns and the second part will be a review of these findings and will these things actually work for the town. The meeting with the students went very well. Chairman Sette is waiting for information from Prof. Halawi containing a time line for the project. Unfortunately one week has already been missed. Prof. Halawi will have the Project Charter ready on Thursday, February 11, 2010 for review by the members and then a confirmation and sign off by Chairman Sette. The students will present their finding hopefully during final exam week. Chairman Sette provided a list of known towns that do some kind of sharing of technology between the city/town and board of education. The list was compiled from third party survey of school districts along with other districts know to Chairman Sette. Chairman Sette expressed to the students that this list is not an accurate and precise report and should be used only for reference purposes. He advised the students to investigate all towns or towns that they think might be beneficial, Chairman Sette didn’t want to direct the survey he just wanted to provide the students with a starting point, he has also provided the students with contact information, Dave Richards and Rob Callahan. Ms. Glenn inquired if this was the only assignment for the students. Chairman Sette advised the

Commissioners that this is actually a course in System Design, in theory System Design is the investigating a system planning and actually limitation of a system, it's a full encompassing course, that's the actual course and that's what they work and do. This project is really an exercise in what they will be learning in the course, this is just one of many things that make up their grade. Mr. Ariori inquired if the students feel confident because its only eight weeks and Chairman Sette stated Prof. Halawi feels this is doable. Ms. Glenn inquired if the students were excited and Chairman Sette stated it was basically school work and they were more interested in what they need to do. Ms. Glenn inquired if they were residents of the town, would they be against it etc., and Chairman Sette stated he advised them that this is a job, they are being hired as a consultant and they are expected to do a job just like in real life, this needs to be an independent study the Commission was not going to tell the students what to do or what the answer's are going to be or what the Commission expects them to be, he stated the Commission might know what they will come up with but the Commission does not want to influence them one way or another of what they will come up with.

Department Activity

- a. Update from Dave Richards on the status of IT – Mr. Richards was not present for the meeting did speak with Chairman Sette after the meeting with Quinnipiac. Chairman Sette sent an email to Mr. Richards to which he replied and said he would contact Chairman Sette for further discussion, but Chairman Sette has not heard from Mr. Richards. Mr. Callahan also contacted Chairman Sette to see about catching up but he hasn't heard from Mr. Callahan yet. Chairman Sette noted he has spoken with various people involved in both town and education, and they feel this is a good idea. Chairman Sette has not had any correspondence from Mr. Richards regarding what is going on in the town regarding IT but he felt he was at fault for not contact Mr. Richards in a timely manner before the meeting.

New Business

Ms. Glenn mentioned that at the last meeting the subject of any new ideas for the rest of the year. Mr. Spalter noted that a sub-committee should be put together to research ideas, how they can be introduced and completed. The possibility of an open meeting for residents to provide their input was discussed. A survey to all town employees to be voluntary and anonymous was one briefly discussed and the subject of New Ideas will be on the March 4, 2010 agenda. Ms. Ford agreed to head the sub-committee for ideas.

The subject of Mr. Seaforth's email was addressed. Mr. Seaforth has not been at a number of meetings and the Charter requires that if a member is not present for more then 4 meetings the Mayor has the option of removing them from the Commission. The Mayor's office was notified by the clerk of the Commission and the Mayor's secretary broached the subject with the Mayor, the Mayor in turn contacted Mr. Seaforth who stated he wishes to continue on the Commission but could not attend this meeting. The clerk when sending out the agendas and minutes always ask that if a Commissioner is not able to attend the meeting that they contact the clerk in one of three ways, it turns out Mr. Seaforth has not responded to the emails and has not come to the meetings, thus the question of weather he wanted to remain on the Commission was raised.

Adjournment

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Spalter motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Ariori. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Government Center.

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka
Commission Clerk