

Hoped-for new home for Montague TV jeopardized

Member's possible resignation would leave board without quorum

By CHRIS CURTIS
Recorder Staff

TURNERS FALLS — The body responsible for the fate of the former Cumberland Farms building hit a snag Wednesday with one member's announced intention to withdraw from the process, which might leave the board unable to act.

The Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corp. controls the decaying structure at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street, and has agreed to sell it to

Montague Community Cable Inc. as space for Montague Community Television and other local nonprofits.

The EDIC met Wednesday to continue work on the purchase and sale agreement.

Member Roy Rosenblatt said at the meeting that he is considering resigning.

"I feel too personally in conflict to continue," Rosenblatt said, alluding to an unspecified conflict of interest involving friends and family and discomfort with the sale.

The absence of a single member leaves the board,

which numbers four of a possible seven, without a quorum to meet or vote.

"I'm willing to stay in meetings so you have a quorum to continue discussions, I'm not sure whether I'm willing to sign anything," Rosenblatt said.

"Is that 100 percent?" asked member Nathaniel Donovan.

"Pretty close," Rosenblatt said.

Members and Town Planner Walter Ramsey discussed what this would mean for the board's ability to transfer the property, but there was no clear resolution.

The possibility of recruiting a replacement for Rosenblatt, who replaced former chairman Andrew Killeen after he moved out of town this spring, was discussed with members saying that it takes time and any new member would be dropped into the middle of the process.

Ramsey said after the meeting it would take more research to determine what the absence of Rosenblatt's signature would mean for the sale.

The town took the Cumberland Farms property through eminent domain in 1985 and it was attached to what became the Great Falls Discovery Center project, coming under control of the state Division of Conservation and Recreation.

DCR did not use the property and it has been little used since, managed by the EDIC at the town level but in ownership limbo.

The state recently agreed to relinquish the title under an agreement carrying aesthetic and other restrictions on the use of the property, and the EDIC accepted MCCI's proposal to transform the building into the Grand Trunk Media and Cultural Center, primarily workspace for MCTV with space for the Montague Business Association and Turners Falls RiverCulture.

The EDIC is a quasi-independent town body appointed by the selectmen and charged

with promoting local economic development projects, and is not bound by the same restrictions in transferring property as a town.

The MCCI originally proposed using the property in exchange for extensive work needed to clean out mold and repair the roof as ordered by the building inspector, work the EDIC did not have the money to perform.

Town meeting in May approved spending \$32,000 on the building, money officials said was needed as a safety net for the building in case the deal fell through.

You can reach Chris Curtis at: ccurtis@recorder.com or 413-772-0261, ext. 257

Shop Locally

We owe it to our friends and family to keep all of the money we spend working for us here at home. If local dollars were spent with hometown merchants, our standard of living would be better and our community would be more prosperous.

One of the most common and least sensible forms of giving is the making of donations to the growth of other communities. Experts say that every dollar you spend turns over up to seven times. That means that a dollar spent somewhere else will take away \$7 in trade, wages, local taxes and many other benefits. A one-hundred-dollar day is, in most cases, a minimum day for the gas, food and shopping that you do in the big city. That becomes \$700 for that community, not ours.

It's simple economics - shop at home!

<p>BAKER Office Supply & 1/2 PRICE CARD SHOP 310 Main Street, Greenfield ~ 774-2345 "Your Local Source"</p>	<p>Shanahan Construction Supply Co. "Rock solid service with level advice" Brick • Block • Pavers • Pre-Cast Steps • Culvert Wall Stone • Form Ties • Complete Masonry Supplies 288 Ave. A • 863-4322 - Turners Falls</p>	<p>• Cruises • Airline Tickets • Hotels • Train Tickets Cruise & Travel Company www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com (413) 863-3143</p>
<p>GREENFIELD'S USED CAR STORE • Over 100 Used Cars • Dillon 54 Main Street • Greenfield • 773-3678</p>	<p>GREENFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LOCAL SHOPPING BUILDS STRONG TOWNS www.greenfieldbusiness.org</p>	<p>"For over 35 years" The Country Jeweler On the corner of Main & Chapman 220 Main St., Greenfield</p>
<p>ART'S TIRE Inc. 10 SILVER ST. GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01301 TEL. 413-774-4349</p>	<p>The Outlet Store CARHARTT • CHIPPEWA • WOOLRICH • RED WING "Where Our Prices Say Thank You For Shopping Downtown Greenfield" 10-12 Chapman St., Greenfield (413) 773-3996</p>	<p>Foster's SUPERMARKET 1941 Conway & Allen Streets • Greenfield 773-1100</p>
<p>Sandri SUNOCO "We're as near as your phone!" 400 Chapman St., Greenfield • 772-2121</p>	<p>Bernardston Farmer's Supply 43 River Rd, Bernardston ~ 413-648-9311 www.bernardstonfarmerssupply.com For all your landscaping & farm needs!</p>	<p>In Greenfield It's ... WILSON'S One of New England's Leading Department Stores Since 1882 258 Main Street, Greenfield • 774-4326</p>
<p>WE'RE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD! COHN & COMPANY REAL ESTATE 772-0105 See All Real Estate Listings On Our Website - www.cohnandcompany.com</p>	<p>friendly information & help The Wine Rack Proudly supporting local products, people & businesses www.greenfieldwinerack.com www.twitter/wineracknews.com</p>	<p>GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE 269 High Street, Greenfield, MA 413-773-9639 Store Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm Sat 8am-5pm www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com</p>
<p>THE RECORDER recorder.com</p>	<p>Knitting and crochet. Start holiday gifts now. metaphor yarns 623 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne 413-625-9191 www.metaphoryarns.com</p>	<p>Where Fun & Food Meet The Greenfield Grille Federal Street, Greenfield • 376-4777</p>

This promotion runs the first and third Mondays of each month. To participate in this promotion call The Recorder advertising department at 772-0261