

Dugatto Settles Longstanding Lawsuit, Acquires Key Property

City purchases Derby Feed to advance long term development goals

Derby – After nearly seven years of contentious litigation filed against the City of Derby under the administration of ex-Mayor Tony Staffieri, current Mayor Anita Dugatto and the Board of Aldermen brought to closure the matter of Derby Real Estate LLC v. City of Derby with the purchase of properties, better known as the Derby Feed Company on Caroline Street and First Street.

The City cut a check in the amount of \$452,354.95 today and the closing documents were executed by Cynthia Moffatt of Derby Realty LLC and were recorded in the land records of the City of Derby.

The City obtained three appraisals for the properties and determined that value of the property was \$600,000.00. The City deducted the taxes that were owed on the property in the amount of \$96,005.05 and the cost of Phase I and Phase II environmental testing in the amount of \$51,640.00.

Mayor Dugatto noted that “This is another positive step forward toward achieving our long term goals of a more vibrant Derby. I am pleased that we were able to settle this lawsuit in a fair and equitable manner.” The lawsuit was filed in Milford Superior Court on March 30, 2009 after the property owners were frustrated by the lack of response by ex-Mayor Tony Staffieri and his Economic Development and Legal Staff.

The money for the purchase was taken from more than \$1 million dollars of unanticipated revenue that was collected through the City’s 2014 Tax Sale and had no impact on the mill rate.

Aldermanic President Arthur T. Gerckens stated “After a decade of lawsuits and empty promises, it’s nice to finally hear some good news. We’ve been working on this since we recovered over a million dollars in unpaid taxes and are determined to keep Derby moving in the correct direction.”

The City plans to recycle any material that it is able to salvage when it removes the building next year.

Mayor Dugatto concluded, “We will continue to make forward progress, one step at a time by working together as one community for a better Derby.”