

Office of the Town Manager

Town of East Hampton

Connecticut

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager

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August 15, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

On July 23, 2013 at the regularly scheduled East Hampton Town Council meeting the Council, by unanimous vote, directed me to write this letter of fact in regards to Mr. Bevin's inheritance of his business, Bevin Bells and his receipt of a grant from the CT Small Business Express program after his bell factory burned on memorial day weekend in 2012.

Since 2008 Matt Bevin has been working with the Town to get delinquent taxes at the Bell factory paid in full. These delinquent taxes were prior to Mr. Bevin having an ownership interest in the company. It is our understanding that Mr. Bevin took ownership of Bevin Bell in August 2011. At that time the company owed the Town in excess of \$180,000 in back taxes. By April 2012, delinquent taxes for the Grand Lists of 2005-2010 were paid in full. Having the taxes paid in full has always been a priority of Mr. Bevin.

After the fire at the bell factory, Sheila Hummel from the Connecticut Department of Community and Economic Development left a message with Jeff Jylkka, Acting Town Manager, on 5-29-2013 to discuss ways that they can assist the Town and Matt Bevin. I attended a meeting on or around June 7th with Mr. Bevin and other individuals and Mrs. Hummel explained to us that she wanted to discuss the next steps in the rebuilding of the company. The meeting was at the request of the state and their goal was to provide assistance to Matt and the Town. Several assistance ideas were presented by the State including the small business express grant, manufacturing assistance grant and historic preservation. It is our understanding that Mr. Bevin secured a \$100,000 small business express grant directly through the State of Connecticut.

East Hampton CT is known as "Bell Town" due to its rich history in bell manufacturing. With the steady decline in US manufacturing East Hampton has seen its bell manufacturers disappear one by one. Bevin Bells is the last bell factory left in Bell Town. The Bell Factory and its continued operation is integral to our community fabric. Should you have any additional questions regarding the above topics please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Michael Maniscalco, MPA