

Cunningham founded Maine Manufacturing in 2007 with a handful of employees and currently employs more than 85 people, most of whom had worked for Whatman/GE Healthcare Life Sciences before GE moved the Sanford manufacturing to Wales earlier this year.

Maine Manufacturing produces filters and supplies used in research laboratories, universities, biotech and medical-related companies. Among the company's Maine clients are Jackson Laboratories, Inverness Medical and Idexx Labs.

The CDBG loan requires a \$300,000 match which will be provided by the company.

The proposed machinery and equipment acquisition is expected to add 10 new jobs to Maine Manufacturing's workforce. The company plans to create an additional 10 jobs — beyond those created by the expansion — over the next five or six months.

Waban Projects is seeking a \$40,000 Public Service grant through the CDBG program to create job opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities at Secure Records Management Systems, a business started recently by Waban.

Secure Records Management Systems (Secure RMS) is a confidential information destruction business that will provide financial institutions, hospitals, government agencies and departments, and other businesses with a secure method of destroying confidential information that is no longer needed.

Operating in a 6,500-square-foot facility in Sanford, Secure RMS has already created full-time jobs for three local people. The grant will allow the company to create up to eight part-time jobs in the first year and up to 13 part-time jobs by the third year of business. The funding will be used to train new employees. Those employees will also be trained to train new employees, Meltzer told the town council at the April 27 meeting. Waban is not asking the Town to provide any financial or other commitment for the startups of the business. Any matching funds required for the grant will be provided by Waban.

Secure RMS is about "trying to create opportunities for people in the community," Meltzer said. "People are the heart and soul of our community."

Accompanying Meltzer at the council meeting were three members of the Sanford community who are residents of Waban's group homes and hold jobs in the community.

"I have been lucky, if not blessed," said John Devoid, who has been an associate at Shaw's Supermarket for 20 years. "I enjoy my work and I have made friends along the way."

Mike Liberty has been an employee at Wal-Mart for four years. "I have made a lot of friends," Liberty said of his employment.

Also speaking at the meeting was Bonnie Sue Kibbey, who is in her second year of bussing tables at Bonanza.

In addition to providing jobs for people with disabilities, all the proceeds from SecureRMS will be used to support programs for developmentally disabled children and adults in the community.