

The new company already employs three people and up to eight part-time jobs are slated to be created in the first year, and up to 13 by the third year of operation.

Work not only brings an employee financial rewards in exchange for labor, but brings with it self-esteem, said Waban Executive Director Neal Meltzer.

Three people who receive services from Waban and work at various business in the community spoke at the public hearing.

Devoid, a grocery bagger at Shaw's Supermarket, was first at the microphone, and spoke about his work experience.

"I've been at Shaw's for 20 years," he said. "I like the money and it's good work. To even have a job that long...seems almost impossible, but I've been lucky, if not blessed. I enjoy my work."

Liberty, who like Devoid lives at a Waban-owned home, works for Wal-Mart. "I've been there for four years. It's a nice job, and I meet a lot of people," said Liberty, a Wal-Mart greeter. "It has been quite an experience for me. I've met a lot of friends."

Kibbey kept her remarks brief. She's in her second year bussing tables at Bonanza Restaurant, she said.

Secure Records Management Systems, called SecureRMS, has been up-and-running for the past couple of months. Already, the company has two dozen clients, including federal agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service, financial institutions and small businesses.

Meltzer called the new company a social enterprise: SecureRMS provides jobs for folks with disabilities, provides a needed service and profits plowed back into programs Waban provides for children and adults with developmental disabilities.