

**Minutes of  
The Economic Development Authority  
Of the County of Accomack, Virginia**

The Economic Development Authority met in the Conference Room of the Accomack County Airport Terminal Building, on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 9:00 A.M.

**Members Present:** John Arthur LeCato, Chairman  
Mary Jester, Vice Chairman  
Shirley Zamora  
Robert Conklin  
Rhet Tignor  
IraVon Ashby-Hope

**Members Absent:** Robert Marshall

**Others Present:** Larry Forbes, Economic Development Director  
Lynn Sherwood, Airport Departmental Secretary  
Patrick Coady, E. S. of Virginia Broadband Authority

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. and declared open to the public.

**Public Comment**

Mr. LeCato introduced Mr. Coady from the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority. Mr. Coady said that he wanted to update the EDA on Broadband's progress. Mr. Coady said that the fiber optics should be connected by the end of the month and operational by the end of the quarter. Mr. Coady said that eight towns had funds committed and there was a one million dollar grant for build out funds to several towns but there are job requirements attached. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. LeCato thanked Mr. Coady for the update.

**Consideration of Proposed Minutes**

Ms. Jester moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2009; Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded the motion; Mr. LeCato had a correction to the minutes and said that he had spoken with a contact in Senator Northam's and the Governor elects' offices and not them directly. Ms. Jester amended the motion to include this change; Mr. Tignor seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Zamora presented the treasurer's report which is included with the minutes.

Mr. LeCato said that he had authorized emergency electrical repairs to the Industrial Park's lighting and that the County is in the process of having the electrical meters separated. Ms. Jester said that the December payment from Sage Diner should complete their connection fee payments.

### **Informational Report from Chairman or Members**

Mr. LeCato said that ANEC refused to purchase the lighting in the park and that he was continuing to only authorize electrical payment of ten dollars per working light until the meters were separated. Mr. LeCato also said that there was bad wiring in sections of the park and suggested that any new businesses that come into the park pay for their own street lighting. Mr. Forbes asked if it would be difficult to change the covenants. Mr. Tignor suggested checking to see what other parks do in regards to lighting issues. A discussion ensued. Mr. Tignor made a motion to write a resolution between the EDA and the County regarding the electrical billing agreement made between Mr. LeCato and Mr. Miner; Ms. Zamora seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. LeCato said that he had met with the four banks on the Shore and they were not optimistic that 2010 would be any better for lending. Mr. LeCato also said that he had again spoken with the Small Business Administration (SBA) regarding the Americas Recovery Capital (ARC) program and there are now tighter restrictions than before and that funds could only be used for rent. A discussion ensued.

Ms. Zamora said that on January 26, 2010 there would be a meeting at the Eastern Shore Community College (ESCC) to discuss the future of Accomack County and asked that all EDA members attend.

Ms. Zamora suggested that the EDA co-sponsor the upcoming Entrepreneur Express with the ESCC and Shore Bank since this event was already planned and covered issues that the EDA had previously discussed for a symposium. A discussion ensued. Mr. Tignor made a motion to co-sponsor

this event and to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check for \$1000 to the ESCC; Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Tignor agreed to be the liaison for this event.

A lengthy discussion ensued about small business and banking issues.

### **Report from Economic Development Director**

Mr. Forbes said that he wanted to focus on two issues which were the five hundred million dollar project and the solar project. Mr. Forbes said that he had been working with Mr. Rose on these projects. Mr. Forbes said that Community Energy was interested in using bonds and would like to present their project to the EDA. Mr. Forbes also said that the five hundred million dollar project was close to being completed. A lengthy discussion ensued.

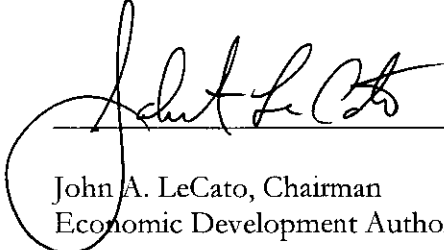
Mr. Forbes said that there was a recommendation of a land swap for 31 acres in the Wallops Research Park with land in the Industrial Park to be used for recreational purposes. A discussion ensued.

### **Other**

Ms. Zamora said a decision should be made regarding which recording device should be used since the EDA meetings are being recorded in two different ways. Ms. Jester made a motion to use the digital recorder and get the supplies that are needed; Mr. Tignor seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



John A. LeCato, Chairman  
Economic Development Authority