

**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, March 9, 2010 at 9:00 A.M.

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

Others Present: Steve Miner, Accomack County Administrator
Mark Taylor, Accomack County Attorney
Lynn Sherwood, Airport Departmental Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M. and declared open to the public.

Other

Ms. Jester said that Mr. Conklin's term on the EDA had expired and that he had chosen to not be reappointed. Ms. Jester asked about preparing a Resolution for Mr. Conklin. Mr. Marshall said that one had been prepared for Mr. Dunton but was never presented. A discussion ensued. Mr. Tignor agreed to prepare the Resolutions.

Public Comment

There was no public present.

Consideration of Proposed Minutes

Mr. Tignor moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2010; Mr. Marshall seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Zamora presented the treasurer's report which showed a checking account balance of \$37,522.38.

Mr. LeCato said that he had not been able to get up with Mr. Mason to discuss the bill payment process. Mr. LeCato said that he had approved the EDA budget for next year. A discussion ensued. Ms. Jester asked if the hospital bond payments were complete. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Marshall moved to approve the treasurer's report; Ms. Jester seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Informational Report from Chairman or Members

Mr. Tignor read a report on the Entrepreneur Express which is included with the minutes. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Marshall said the Orbital Science meeting held at the Chamber was very informative about all that was going on at Wallops. A discussion ensued.

Ms. Zamora said that the EDA needed to get involved in bringing the film industry to the County. Mr. Marshall said that Tourism Commission had a department devoted to this. A discussion ensued. Mr. Miner said that the General Assembly has a proposed tax credit bill for movies filmed in Virginia.

Mr. LeCato said that VDOT had torn up the entrance to the Park when clearing snow and that it is the EDA's responsibility to repair this. Mr. LeCato said that another Park issue was with Lucas Underground having an open trash container and suggested sending them a letter asking them to cover the container. Mr. LeCato said that he would handle any Park issues as they arose.

Mr. LeCato said that he had spoken with the mayor of Exmore and said that they were in the process of getting a grant to extend the sewer service to the hospital.

Mr. LeCato asked Mr. Miner if he would give the EDA an update on the County's proposed budget and employee cuts. Mr. Miner said the proposed budget for 2010-2011 is beginning with a \$700,000 negative balance and the Board of Supervisors (BoS) is proposing to cut many positions throughout the County including the Economic Development Director and the Airport secretary. Mr. Miner said that historically the airport has always had at least a part time position with blended support for the EDA. Mr. Miner said there are possibilities that other areas of the County could impact airport

operations which would add more stress to existing staff. Mr. Miner said that he didn't know how the County would support the EDA if the airport secretary cut occurs.

Report from Economic Development Director

Mr. Forbes was unable to attend.

Marketing Strategies

Mr. LeCato said that he was still receiving calls for help from businesses but the banks were still doing very little or no lending. A discussion ensued.

Closed Session

Mr. Marshall moved to go into Closed Session, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A5 of the Code of Virginia for the discussion concerning prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community: Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session convened at 10:05 am.

At the conclusion of the Closed Session the door was opened.

Chairman LeCato declared the meeting open to the public at 10:16 am.

Certification of Closed Session

A roll call vote was taken pursuant to Section 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia immediately after reconvening in Open Meeting, at which time each member certified by his vote that (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Ms. Zamora	aye
Mr. Marshall	aye
Mr. LeCato	aye
Ms. Ashby-Hope	aye
Ms. Jester	aye
Mr. Tignor	aye

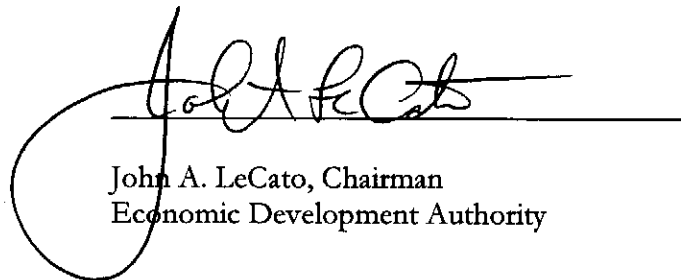
Other

Mr. LeCato said that he had been asked for the EDA Chairman and Vice-Chairman to meet with the BoS Chairman and Vice-Chairman to discuss how to deal with future growth in the County. Mr. Miner said that he would help with the scheduling of this meeting.

Mr. Tignor asked about a replacement for Mr. Conklin's seat on the EDA. Mr. Miner said that the BoS was looking into another appointment.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.



John A. LeCato, Chairman
Economic Development Authority

Report to the EDA board of Directors concerning

The Entrepreneur Express

February 24, 2010

Initiated by a recommendation from Ms. Shirley Zamora, we became a co-sponsor of the above cited program. Our support of one thousand dollars was used primarily to publicize the event in our community. I attended the event and offer the following report for the record.

First and foremost, the event was a sellout. There were 68 attendees, a packed house if you will. If our intention was to have this kind of a function on the shore and have it well attended by folks who were in the early stages of a business start-up or were considering such a proposition, Ms. Zamora's recommendation was on target.

Ms. Kathy Dolan from the Virginia Department of Business Assistance suggested that due to the professional efforts of Dean Eddie Swain of our Eastern Shore Community College, this Entrepreneur Express seminar was much better than many that she has participated in. She offered high praise for Dean Swain's organizational and marketing efforts.

The program that ran from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM involved professionals from Richmond, our own community college, local business professionals and featured some Eastern Shore success stories.

I would like to mention the following members of our community who contributed materially to this Entrepreneur Express:

Mr. Eddie Swain, ESCC Dean of Workforce Development Services
Mr. George Bryan, Small Business Development Center
Ms. Tammy Mason, Vice President, Business Development Officer, Shore Bank
Members of our Business Success panel, highlighted by Ms. Pamela Barefoot

Submitted by

Rhet Tignor