

**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, May 11, 2010 at 9:00 A.M.

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

Members Absent: Rhet Tignor

Others Present: Steve Miner, Accomack County Administrator
Mike Mason, Accomack County Finance Director
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.

Public Comment

There was no public present.

Consideration of Proposed Minutes

Mr. Marshall moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2010; Ms. Jester seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Report from Mike Mason

Mr. LeCato thanked Mr. Mason for attending. Mr. Mason said that he had prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the EDA to help standardize the bill process.

Mr. Miner joined the meeting at 9:17.

Mr. Mason explained the (MOU) and the bill process. A discussion ensued. Ms. Jester moved to adopt the (MOU) between the County and the EDA; Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mason presented an invoice to the EDA which covered bills that had been paid from July 2009 until March 2010. A discussion ensued. Ms. Zamora moved to reimburse the County for these expenses from July 2009 to March 2010; Mr. Marshall seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. LeCato thanked Mr. Mason for attending.

Report from Amy Bull

Mr. LeCato said that Ms. Bull was unable to attend.

Informational Report from Chairman or Members

Ms. Jester read a draft of a letter on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Scope pertaining to geological and geophysical surveys. A discussion ensued. Ms. Zamora made a motion to send the letter of support; Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miner and Mr. LeCato thanked Ms. Jester for attending the PEIS meeting. Mr. Miner said that by attending the meeting the County had received the attention of Mineral Management Services (MMS) and that this was the first of four levels in the environmental review.

Ms. Jester said that last month the EDA had adopted a motion to buy signs advertising lots for sale in the Park and had talked about Park policy. Ms. Jester made a motion to adopt a formal policy that property in the Park will be offered for sale to any acceptable business whether currently located inside or outside the County that proposes to add new jobs in the County. This policy contemplates that the EDA will be the sole determiner of what constitutes an acceptable business for the Park. A discussion ensued; Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Jester read a press release which she had prepared announcing a policy change in the Accomack County Industrial Park. A

discussion ensued. Ms. Zamora made a motion to accept the press release; Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Jester said that she and Mr. LeCato had met with the Board of Supervisors (BoS) vice-chairman and Mr. Miner and that she had recorded the meeting for anyone who was interested in reviewing it.

Marketing Strategies

Ms. Zamora discussed the research that she had done on the land swap with Wallops. Mr. Miner said that land that was already owned by the County could not be used in the land swap. A discussion ensued. Mr. Miner reminded everyone that this was not a simple process but that it did need to be resolved. Mr. LeCato said that the EDA would support the County in its decision.

Ms. Zamora discussed the research that she had done for an EDA web page. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Mr. LeCato said that he and Ms. Jester had a meeting with Mr. Hart and Mr. Miner and they discussed the communication problems between the EDA and the BOS. Mr. LeCato said that having a joint quarterly meeting sponsored by the EDA inviting local business owners and banks to discuss current problems was discussed. Mr. LeCato said the sewer line issue to lower Accomack County and the possibility of obtaining grants for this project was also discussed. Ms. Jester said that the taxiway at Wallops had also been discussed.

Ms. Jester said that everyone needed a copy of the Virginia Code on Statutory Purpose and Powers of EDAs. Ms. Jester also said that the covenants needed to be redone and asked if the By Laws had been signed. A discussion ensued. A work session was scheduled for June 1st to discuss the covenants.

Ms. Jester asked about the sewer capacity if lots are sold in the Park. A discussion ensued.


Ms. Jester said that education needs to be promoted since schools are an issue with new businesses that are interested in coming into the County. Ms. Jester suggested looking into the possibility of a Charter School. Ms. Zamora said that she would research this.

Other

Mr. Miner distributed copies of a proposal from Springsted pertaining to the new taxiway at Wallops.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



John A. LeCato, Chairman
Economic Development Authority