

VIRGINIA: At an Adjourned Meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the County of Accomack held in the Board Chambers in Accomac on the 1st day of May, A.D., 2013, at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Charles “Jack” Gray, Vice Chair
Wanda J. Thornton
Ron S. Wolff
Grayson Chesser
Kay W. Lewis
Robert D. Crockett
Laura Belle Gordy
C. Reneta Major

Others Present: Steven B. Miner, County Administrator
Shelia Goodman, Administrative Assistant
Mark Taylor, County Attorney

Members Absent: Donald L. Hart, Jr., Chair

EDA Members Present: John LeCato, Chair
Irene Davis
Wesley Edwards
Robert Bloxom
Shirley Zamora

Members Absent: Ira Ashby-Hope

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair and noted Chairman Hart would be absent from the meeting and the Vice Chair opened with a prayer after which the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Call to Order

John LeCato Chair of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) called the meeting to order and Robert Bloxom seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Ira Ashby-Hope absent.

Old Business

Introduction and Brief Presentation by the County Administrator

Dr. Miner gave a brief introduction and presentation and stated the EDA had requested in this year’s current budget \$25,000 but the Board agreed to \$7,500 for allocation of monies.

Presentation by the Economic Development Authority

Mr. John LeCato, Chair of the EDA introduced Shirley Zamora, Robert Bloxom, Irene Davis, Wesley Edwards, and himself as the EDA members. He told the Board Ira Ashby-Hope was absent. Chairman LeCato told the Board that originally the EDA was

told there were 200 plus acres in the Industrial Park in the beginning but they have since found out there are approximately 127 acres of that land in the wetlands or blocked off by wetlands.

Mr. Robert Bloxom distributed copies of maps showing the 60 acres that were available for sale in the Industrial Park. Mr. Bloxom depicted the wetlands and the lands that were blocked off by the wetlands, and the lands that are owned by the EDA.

Mr. Bloxom informed the Board that the EDA has discussed how to go about selling the land in the Industrial Park. He continued and stated the EDA felt strongly in going with local realtors and let the realtors handle it. He continued and said the Economic Development Authorities goal was to bring in businesses in the Park, create jobs and create revenue, and the EDA is for the development of the County. Mr. Bloxom responded to questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. LeCato handed out the Statue of the Code of Virginia that enacted the IDA in 1974 and the history of the meetings of the IDA. He told the Board the EDA idea is to create jobs and tax base for the County. Mr. LeCato responded to questions from the Board. A lengthy discussion ensued on EDA Bonds to generate revenue.

Marketing Proposal from the EDA

Mrs. Irene Davis gave a brief summary on the Marketing Proposal, the website, and marketing statistics. Mrs. Davis told the Board the objective of the marketing proposal is to attract businesses to build in the Industrial Park and that if they sold these properties the County would have an additional tax base as well as employment opportunities for the residents of Accomack County.

Mrs. Davis stated local realtors have great potential to sell both the Park and homes to someone who would relocate to Accomack County, but the realtor knows very little about the property the County has to offer. Mrs. Davis told the Board due to fragile environment we must look for small to medium sized businesses. She continued and told the Board the EDA would like to get custom folders printed with lots of resource information printed because the EDA wants to showcase the County's uniqueness to business people. Mrs. Davis stated the EDA wants to create packets to give to the realtor as well as the County.

The Board gave comments to Mrs. Davis on the great Marketing Proposal she presented.

Mr. Wesley Edwards gave a comparison summary on other Economic Development Authority's in Virginia and handed out copies to the Board of other counties in Virginia and explained the same.

Mr. Crockett asked Mr. Edward's if he was at the work session as a reporter or an EDA member. Mr. Edwards responded he was there as a member of the EDA. Mr. Crockett explained why he asked the question to Mr. Edward's and stated it was because he listened to the tape of the EDA meeting that was held on April 9, 2013 and Mr. Edward's had asked for copies of the Code Section pertaining to the EDA and he stated Mr. Edward's said he would need at least three (3) more copies for the reporters present.

Mr. Crockett stated it was not fine for someone to create news, but it was fine for reporters to report news.

Mr. Edwards responded to questions from the Board. Mrs. Gordy commented and said the EDA had come to life in the past 2 years and she sincerely hoped the two Boards would come together. A discussion ensued regarding the report Mr. Edwards presented to them.

Mrs. Thornton commented and stated you could not expect an organization to be successful if it was not funded money. Mrs. Thornton continued and said the Board needs to fund the EDA and give them an opportunity and would like to see changes being made.

Mr. Crockett commented on how good the presentation was and stated the Work Plan was very well received by the Board.

Mr. Wolff stated the idea of the Work Plan was great and the EDA was moving in a positive direction.

Ms. Lewis stated she was glad to see the BOS was moving forward and moving quickly.

Mrs. Thornton commented on the fact that the EDA did not have any information was because the information was not furnished to them by the County. She continued and stated you cannot expect someone to be appointed to serve on a board, committee, or commission and not know what their functions are. Mrs. Thornton also stated the County needs to start furnishing the information to them. Mrs. Thornton suggested re-meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and seeing if some changes could be changed concerning the wetlands on the EDA property. A discussion ensued.

Mrs. Thornton asked Mr. Miner to put on the May BOS Regular Monthly meeting an Agenda Item to consider funding the EDA \$25,000 rather than the \$7,500 for discussion and possible action.

Mrs. Thornton suggested the EDA be put on the Board's Agenda every six (6) months and she stated she would like the EDA minutes to be sent to the Board of Supervisors every month.

Mr. Chesser stated he would like all committees, commissions, and boards to have the audio because this would be very helpful. A discussion ensued.

Adjournment

Mr. Wolff made a motion to adjourn the Board of Supervisors Work Session Meeting. Mr. Crockett seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Chairman Hart absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. LeCato made a motion to adjourn the EDA Work Session Meeting. Mr. Robert Bloxom seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Ira Ashby-Hope absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Accomack County Board of Supervisors

By:

John Charles "Jack" Gray,
Vice Chair

Date

The Accomack County Economic Development Authority

By:

John LeCato,
Chair

Date