

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11, 2014

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 11th day November 2014, at the Sage Diner in Onley, Virginia.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Economic Development Authority Members Present:

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman
Mr. Robert Bloxom, Vice Chairman
Mr. Calvert Seybolt
Mr. Wesley Edwards
Ms. Shirley Zamora

Economic Development Authority Members Absent:

Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope

Others Present:

Ms. Irene Davis
Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development

B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The floor was opened for the public comment period. No one signed up or requested to speak.

3. MINUTES

A. October 14, 2014

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Zamora, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the minutes of October 14, 2014 as presented.

4. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE FOR MS. IRENE DAVIS

The EDA Board members welcomed Ms. Davis and thanked her for her service to the EDA and specifically noted her efforts in developing the EDA website and promotional brochure.

Chairman LeCato read a letter of recognition and presented it to Ms. Davis. The EDA also presented Ms. Davis with a gift card in appreciation of her service.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

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Mr. Edwards reported that several of the outstanding bills had been paid. He informed the EDA that with the bills paid recently (Paper People and new lawnmower and others) that approximately \$15,000 would be drawn down from the account. With no recent bank statement available he estimated that \$16,000 – \$18,000 would remain in the bank after the recent bills were paid.

Chairman LeCato reported on the lawnmower purchase.

Motion by Ms. Zamora and seconded by Mr. Seybolt the bills were authorized for payment.

Discussion ensued about whether or not items had to come before the EDA twice for payment. At the end of the discussion, it was determined that the EDA needs to approve payment after bills are received.

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Ms. Zamora

Ms. Zamora reported that she, Cheryl Cashman, and Kristen Tremblay had assembled around 200 promotional packets. She also informed the EDA that Ms. Cashman would not be able to take on minute taking for the EDA at this time.

B. Mr. Seybolt

Mr. Seybolt reported that a small sawmill was planning to locate in the Wachapreague area and that the sawmill developer would be looking for standing timber.

C. Mr. Bloxom

Mr. Bloxom reported that the meeting with local real estate board of directors went well. Discussion ensued about ‘bird dog fee’ and level of compensation realtors should receive took place. Mr. Edwards noted his concern with over compensating realtors. At the end of the discussion a motion was introduced and seconded.

Motion by Ms. Zamora and seconded by Mr. Bloxom that compensation to realtors for land sold in the industrial park would be based on a \$5,000 per acre price and a 7% sales commission. The realtors would also be linked to the EDA website. The EDA amended the motion to have this compensation arrangement in place for 1 year.

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D. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards stated that he continued to believe that the EDA should be promoting economic development efforts by travelling and attending trade shows.

7. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Morrison reported that Jerry Sanders from Somerset Utilities would be making a presentation at the November Board of Supervisors meeting.

Chairman LeCato raised the issue about bringing on a secretary for the EDA. Ms. Zamora stated that she has an acquaintance who she believes would be appropriate to fill the position. Ms. Zamora stated that she will report her findings to Ms. Tremblay.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Chairman LeCato read a proposed motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.5 of the Code of Virginia. Mr. Edwards moved the motion and Mr. Seybolt seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of the closed session, the door was opened and Chairman LeCato asked for a roll call vote to go back into public session. All Ayes.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference room.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Zamora, and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

John LeCato, Chairman