

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2015

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 12th day May 2015, in the Accomack County Airport Conference Room, in Melfa, Virginia.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Economic Development Authority Members Present:

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

Mr. Calvert Seybolt

Mr. Wesley Edwards

Ms. Shirley Zamora

Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope

Mr. C. Ray Davis

Economic Development Authority Members Absent:

Mr. Robert Bloxom, Vice Chairman

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner

B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:05 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. April 14, 2015

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Zamora, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the minutes of April 14, 2015 as presented.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Edwards reported that as of May 12, 2015 there is \$25,820.15 in the Economic Development Authority Fund.

He also reported that he approved the bill for the EDA newspaper advertisement and that he has not drawn down on the fourth quarter. The EDA then discussed its current budget.

On a motion made by Ms. Ashby-Hope and seconded by Ms. Zamora, the Economic

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Development Authority voted to approve the Treasurers report as presented.

5. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Ms. Zamora

Ms. Zamora has nothing to report at this time.

B. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards reported to the EDA that he believed that the person cutting the grass on the airport property was using the equipment that was recently purchased by the EDA. Chairman LeCato stated that the Airport does not have an employee to cut the grass at the current time, and will be hiring for the position soon. In the meantime, a contractor has been utilizing their own equipment which happened to be the same model recently purchased.

He also stated that the lawn of the BaySys property may need to be maintained by the EDA. Discussion ensued. Chairman LeCato offered to contact the property owners of the BaySys property to enquire about lawn maintenance.

C. Mr. Seybolt

Mr. Seybolt reported that he has been attempting to find out the general consensus about the National Wildlife Service move of the beach on Assateague. Discussion ensued. Rich Morrison offered to email the EDA the latest draft of the proposal report.

D. Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis has nothing to report at this time.

E. Ms. Ashby-Hope

Ms. Ashby-Hope has nothing to report at this time.

F. Chairman LeCato

Chairman LeCato stated that he would be contacting the owner of the BaySys property to inquire about lawn maintenance.

6. STAFF REPORT

Rich Morrison reported that the seed and fertilizer company met with the building official and decided that improvements to a leased building would be too costly to proceed. It is likely that the company will look for property in the County and may be operational next year.

He also reported that the potential poultry industry company is still active.

Mr. Morrison also mentioned that the EDA may want to put some money aside for new

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landscaping in the park.

Mr. Edwards then asked about the jet in front of the Airport. Rich Morrison stated that he would look into it. Discussion ensued.

7. MARKETING STRATEGIES

The EDA discussed its marketing materials. It was noted by Rich Morrison that approximately 200 of the brochures were distributed to the Realtors. The EDA discussed placing the brochures at welcome centers.

On a motion made by Mr. Seybolt and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to enter into a contract with the New Church visitors center and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel rest area to allow for the placement of Economic Development Authority marketing materials.

The EDA agreed to meet at the Planning Department conference room on Wednesday May 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to assemble marketing materials.

Mr. Edwards stated that he would like the EDA to go to economic development conferences and trade shows. Rich Morrison recommended that the EDA consider joining the Virginia Economic Developers Association. He stated that he would bring information on both the Virginia Economic Developer Association membership as well as national association information if available.

Mr. Seybolt moved to have staff look into how much it would cost the EDA to become a member of the Virginia Economic Developers Association. Ms. Zamora amended the motion to have staff also look at national economic developers' associations membership costs as well. Staff will follow up with the EDA at its June 14, 2015 meeting at which the EDA may make a decision.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference room.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards, and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman