

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2015

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 11th day August 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. Robert Bloxom, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wesley Edwards
Ms. Shirley Zamora

Economic Development Authority Members Absent:

Mr. Calvert Seybolt
Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope
Mr. C. Ray Davis

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner
Ms. Laura Godbolt, Economic Development Manager, Foreign Trade Zone
Administrator, Virginia Port Authority

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. July 14, 2015

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

4. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE PORT OF VIRGINIA

Ms. Laura Godbolt gave a presentation on the Port of Virginia. She explained the general information on the terminals and stated that the Port has been experiencing record setting volumes in the last 18 months. The Panama Canal is being widened and the Port is growing in volume – and is now the third largest port. She discussed the economic impacts of the Port as well as Foreign Trade Zones.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2015

Rich Morrison explained that he asked Ms. Godbolt to come to meet with the EDA in the event that the EDA wanted to participate in Foreign Trade Zones and to understand the Port of Virginia's importance in improving Eastern Shore harbors and wharfs.

5. CONSIDER PLAN APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC WORKS STORAGE BUILDING

Public Works would like to do an expansion to the County facilities in the Industrial Park consisting of a new storage building. The Industrial Park covenants require plan approval.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the plans as submitted for a new storage building at the Accomack County garage facility.

6. DISCUSSION OF EB-5 PROGRAM

The EDA discussed the EB-5 program that was presented at its August 4, 2015 special meeting and if the EDA was interested in and capable of handling the program. The majority of the EDA expressed its reticence about the program. Chairman LeCato stated that he believed that the EDA needed more information on the program and noted concern about the legal aspects. Mr. Edwards stated that he believed the program is worth pursuing. Ms. Zamora stated that the EDA does not have the amount of money required to set up a center [Regional Center]. She believes that it is a significant risk. Chairman LeCato stated that there is a lot of information that the EDA does not have and that Mr. Edwards is the only one of the EDA that is showing the most interest in the program.

The EDA agreed to seek out other avenues of information on the EB-5 program. Ms. Zamora stated that she would reach out to some contacts during an upcoming visit to Washington D.C. Mr. Edwards stated that he would also contact Scott Rigell's office. Ms. Godbolt stated that she would try to get the EDA more information on the EB-5 program as well.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Edwards reported that as of August 11, 2015 there is \$26,798 in the Economic Development Authority Fund. He stated that he okayed the website bill and the EDA insurance. He has not drawn down any money from 2015/2016.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Ms. Zamora

Ms. Zamora stated that since the EDA made a formal comment about the Dollar General in Mappsville, she suggested that the EDA also consider a letter of support on the library proposed for Parksley. Discussion ensued. Rich Morrison stated that he would see if someone from the library board would meet with the EDA to discuss their

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2015

proposals.

B. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards wanted to discuss the poultry paper issued by county staff. He stated his concern about the additional poultry waste generated. Discussion ensued.

C. Mr. Bloxom

Mr. Bloxom reported that he had a good meeting with the Port Authority in Cape Charles.

D. Chairman LeCato

Chairman LeCato reported that he has been receiving calls from a gentleman regarding Foreign Trade Zones. He has handed the calls to Rich Morrison.

E. Additional Informational Reporting

Mr. Edwards asked about the EDA website. Rich Morrison stated that he tries to check the website daily and that he has not received an email inquiry in over a month. Mr. Edwards stated that he wanted to be handed the task of reviewing the summary of inquiries as provided by the website.

9. STAFF REPORT

Rich Morrison reported that he believes that due to the recent influx of new poultry house applications, there is a good opportunity at this time to discuss the industry and its influence in the County.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference room.

11. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Zamora, and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman