

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 10th day November 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. Wesley Edwards

Ms. Shirley Zamora

Mr. Calvert Seybolt

Mr. C. Ray Davis

Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope

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 9:00 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 13, 2015

Mr. Davis asked for a change to the minutes to reflect 'grab,' not 'grant'.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Zamora, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the minutes of October 13, 2015 with modifications.

Mr. Edwards asked about a broadband grant and stated that he believed that the EDA should be looking at grants. Rich Morrison stated that a start-up private company who was in the business of providing internet to the Necks had approached staff in the past. He also stated that he would attempt to bring in a company to discuss the matter with the EDA. Discussion ensued.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to bring in a private firm for information on acquiring internet for the places down the necks.

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4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Edwards stated that there is no change, and that as of November 10, 2015 there is \$26,801.62 in the Economic Development Authority fund.

Chairman LeCato inquired as to whether the website had been paid. It was determined that it had been paid and that the bill was an annual fee, not a bi-annual fee.

5. DISCUSSION OF ESVA STRONGER ECONOMIES TOGETHER (SET)

Mr. Morrison stated that the USDA and Virginia Tech have given a grant to both Accomack and Northampton to do a regional collaboration for economic development. The first meeting was well attended with a good number of federal and state representatives. Data was presented to find the common ground between the two (2) counties. He told the EDA that if they were interested, he would send out the materials. The emphasis is on working regionally. Discussion ensued.

6. DISCUSSION OF NORTHAMPTON JIDA PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Mr. Edwards suggested that the EDA start out with a quarterly meeting schedule with the JIDA. Chairman LeCato stated that JIDA had asked for a bi-annual meeting schedule. Discussion ensued.

On a motion made by Ms. Zamora and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the Economic Development Authority voted to start a quarterly schedule for 'combined' meetings with the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority.

Ms. Zamora moved to amend the motion that the Economic Development Authority has combined meetings with the Northampton first meeting of every quarter: January, April, June and October and that the location is alternating so that each board has to travel. Furthermore, the Chairman of each board facilitates communication between the two boards.

It was determined that the contact for Northampton is Bill Parr.

Rich Morrison stated that the Shore already has a natural fit in the regional sense. The easily achieved combined efforts could be on:

1. Natural boundaries
2. Workforce
3. Community College
4. Marketing of Eastern Shore of Virginia
- 5.

Rich stated that is will be a facilitated discussion and that is will be left up to the small groups to come up with answers. Further discussion ensued.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Ms. Zamora

Ms. Zamora stated that she has drafted a letter of support for the library building committee in their decision for location. The support letter is for the library board to consider utilizing the vacant Fresh Pride building in Parksley.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to send the letter of support for the library to be sent to Paul Berge, the Library Board and the Director of the Library Board on a vote of 5 -1, with Mr. Davis opposed.

The EDA discussed the Board of Supervisors 5-4 vote to contribute \$2 million towards the library.

Mr. Davis stated that he was concerned that the County promised money towards the library when the voters voted against it.

B. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards has nothing to report at this time.

C. Mr. Seybolt

Mr. Seybolt has nothing to report at this time.

D. Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis has nothing to report at this time.

E. Chairman LeCato

Chairman LeCato stated that the cost to repair the lawnmower is to re-sharpen the blades; \$100 to \$120 to be split between the EDA and the Airport. Discussion ensued. Ms. Zamora asked for clarification on the maintenance schedule: is it annual, what it entails, how frequently, and what is included in the cost.

Chairman LeCato also stated that he has received two (2) inquiry calls based on the sign placed at the end of the Industrial Park. He stated that they asked about pricing, and he quoted them approximately \$10,000 an acre or less an acre. Discussion ensued.

He stated that he received a check from ANEC which was made out to the 'Industrial Authority' for closing an account roughly two (2) years ago in the amount of \$53.00.

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8. STAFF REPORT

Rich Morrison reported that he has nothing to report at this time.

9. MARKETING STRATEGIES

The EDA questioned the success of the website and determined that the website as well as cost sharing should be discussed at the next joint meeting with the Northampton JIDA.

10. 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. Ms. Ashby-Hope moved the motion and Mr. Edwards 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.

11. NEXT MEETING

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Zamora and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman