

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2015**

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day December 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  
Mr. Calvert Seybolt  
Mr. C. Ray Davis  
Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope

##### **Economic Development Authority Members Absent:**

None

##### **Others Present:**

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner  
Mr. Warren Brasselle, VP, Network Operations, Declaration Networks  
Ms. Jill Wilt, Sales Representative, NeuBeam

#### **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. November 10, 2015**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the minutes of November 10, 2015 as presented.**

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Edwards stated that there is no real change, and that as of December 8, 2015 there is \$26,855.00 in the Economic Development Authority fund.

Mr. Edwards also stated that when an invoice is received by the EDA, the County pays the bill out of the County account, and then on a quarterly basis, the EDA pays the bill out of the EDA account. An upcoming quarterly invoice from the County will be approximately \$3,200 which includes salaries and the sign/landscaping for the Industrial Park.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2015

**On a motion made by Mr. Bloxom and seconded by Mr. Seybolt, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the treasurer's report as presented.**

### **5. HEAR FROM BROADBAND REPRESENTATIVES**

*\*\* Broadband representatives that were invited to attend the Economic Development Authority meeting include: Nicholas Pascaretti from the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority, Judy Morgan from Eastern Shore Communications and Warren Brasselle from Declaration Networks.*

Warren Brasselle from Declaration Networks and Jill Wilt from NeuBeam (A Service of Declaration Networks) spoke to the EDA about their company and how they have been working towards providing internet to the areas that may be underserved. Mr. Brasselle and Ms. Wilt discussed some of Declaration Networks methodology, its growth to-date and desired outcomes on the Eastern Shore. The EDA asked questions of Mr. Brasselle and Ms. Wilt and discussed.

### **6. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

#### **A. Ms. Zamora**

Ms. Zamora has nothing to report at this time.

#### **B. Mr. Edwards**

Mr. Edwards stated that Dominion Power has purchased the solar facility and also is in the gas business. As he believes the gas company is on eternal hold, he wanted to ask Rich if Dominion could be considered for natural gas instead.

#### **C. Mr. Bloxom**

Mr. Bloxom reported that the digester is still in play and is experiencing the same problem as the solar facility – in which the company needs a buyer to make the project viable. Discussion ensued.

#### **D. Mr. Seybolt**

Mr. Seybolt has nothing to report at this time.

#### **E. Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis has nothing to report at this time.

#### **F. Ms. Ashby-Hope**

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

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2015

### **G. Chairman LeCato**

Chairman LeCato stated that he received a letter from the Foodbank of Eastern Shore asking the EDA for a donation. The EDA determined that it was inappropriate for the EDA to donate as an organization, however if individual members wished to donate in their own names they could do so.

He also stated that the Airport Building and Grounds assistant has resigned and that the Airport will be advertising to fill the position in February. Additionally, the Airport has solicited quotes for spraying herbicides in the park. Discussion ensued.

Chairman LeCato stated that he would be willing to talk to Public Works to ask about helping with the landscaping maintenance of the Industrial Park. Mr. Edwards recommended that Chairman LeCato ask Steve Miner instead.

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Zamora, the Economic Development Authority voted to discuss with Steve Miner, Accomack County Administrator, to take over the landscaping maintenance of the Industrial Park.**

Chairman LeCato reported that he contacted Bill Parr with the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority who has agreed to hold the joint meeting with the EDA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of January in the Eastville Courthouse. The EDA discussed whether this meeting would fall on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and it was determined that it did not.

The EDA also discussed how it would conduct its regular business if it was holding a joint meeting. Chairman LeCato stated that the EDA should have its regular meeting as well until the County Attorney can be contacted.

### **7. BUDGET DISCUSSION**

In the past two (2) years, the EDA has requested a maintenance budget of \$7,500. Staff recommended that the EDA request the same for next year's budget as well. The EDA discussed past income amounts and potential upcoming fees. It was decided that the EDA would wait on the request until Chairman LeCato had reviewed the potential for transfer of landscaping maintenance from the EDA to the County with Steve Miner before making a decision on the amount the EDA would request for next year.

### **8. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Tremblay reported that the EDA disclosure statements are due Tuesday December 15, 2015.

She also stated that the Library Board of Trustees will be holding its fourth meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2015**

Ms. Tremblay further elaborated on the digester and stated that there was nothing new to report. It is hoped that staff will have more information for the EDA in January.

### **9. MARKETING STRATEGIES**

The EDA discussed potentially adding Northampton JIDA to the EDA's website as part of the joint meeting's agenda.

### **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference room.

The next joint meeting between the Economic Development Authority and Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority is scheduled for Tuesday January 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Northampton Administration Building, 16404 Courthouse Rd. Eastville, VA.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

---

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman