

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2016

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

##### **Economic Development Authority Members Present:**

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman  
Mr. Wesley Edwards, Treasurer  
Ms. Stella Rohde  
Mr. C. Ray Davis  
Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope  
Mr. Calvert Seybolt

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

Mr. Robert Bloxom, Vice Chairman

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

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner  
Mr. Paul Muhly, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 4  
Mr. Harris Phillips, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 5  
Mr. Michael Morgan, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)  
Mr. Chris Isdell, VDOT Resident Administrator

#### B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

*Chairman LeCato informed the EDA that Mr. Chris Isdell would be speaking during the Public Comment Period instead of agenda item 5, as he has a prior engagement to attend.*

**Mr. Chris Isdell, VDOT Resident Administrator**, informed the EDA that he was in attendance as requested by Mr. Rich Morrison regarding access and signalization on Route 13 into the Industrial Park.

Chairman LeCato stated that two (2) years ago a letter was sent to VDOT requesting a stop light at the intersection. The letter went to the Board of Supervisors along with a letter from the Dean of the Community College. An access road has been completed from the Industrial Park to the Community College, but the stop light is still needed to bring new businesses into the Industrial Park. Chairman LeCato would like to know what the status is of this request.

Mr. Isdell informed the EDA that processes have recently changed and that the letter may have been sent to the VDOT district office in Suffolk, VA. He reassured the EDA that he would track down the letters of support. Mr. Isdell referenced the traffic data from 2012 stating that in the industry, four (4) year – old data is ancient and a new study would need to be conducted.

Mr. Isdell will contact Mr. Morrison if he is unable to locate the letters of support. Discussion ensued.

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Chairman LeCato and Mr. Isdell agreed that they would stay in contact. The EDA agreed that this is a matter of urgency.

**Mr. Michael Morgan, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)** (resident of Onancock, VA) referenced his previous meeting with Dr. Steve Miner, County Administrator, to work on improvements at the airport. He stated that associations that he is involved in would like to work with the airport and the EDA to maintain and improve the airport to generate more traffic at the airport.

The AOPA requested to have the sign of the Industrial Park lit or have a digital sign and offer advertising. They would also like to have the airport facilities accessible overnight. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Edwards will check on the price of digital signs. Chairman LeCato stated that he would speak with Cela Burge, County Attorney in regard to the expenses of a sign.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **A. January 19, 2016**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the joint January 19, 2016 minutes as amended.**

#### **B. February 9, 2016**

The EDA requested that any packets exceeding five (5) pages be printed and distributed at the meeting.

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the February 9, 2016 minutes as presented.**

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

Mr. Wesley Edwards, reported there was only a small change to the balance which is \$35,161.59.

**On a motion made by Mr. Seybolt and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the Treasurer's Report.**

### **5. PRESENTATION FROM VDOT REGARDING TRAFFIC LIGHT**

This item was addressed under the Public Comment Period.

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

#### **A. Ms. Ashby-Hope**

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

#### **B. Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis has nothing to report at this time.

#### **C. Mr. Seybolt**

Mr. Seybolt reported that Chincoteague's rental bookings have increased approximately 10% since February 2015.

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### D. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards stated that he believed that not all of the hangars at the airport have airplanes in them. Some airplane owners rent a hangar at the airport, but only bring their planes for maintenance. Mr. Edwards stated that there may not be adequate maintenance done on the tarmac. He also stated that Accomack County's tax rate is 3-4% higher than other areas and which deters large airplanes and jets. The EDA sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors two (2) years ago regarding this issue. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Edwards wanted to discuss the EB-5 program. He stated that he does not want to waste any more time if the EDA is not interested. If the EDA is interested, he knows someone that can come in to speak on the matter. Mr. Seybolt stated that he believed he heard that there was a minimum financing to make a regional center. Chairman LeCato stated that he does not completely understand the program and would like to have more information. Discussion ensued.

Chairman LeCato asked who was in favor of sending Mr. Edwards to find out more information on the EB5 program. All members were in favor and agreed that this topic should be an item on the agenda for the July joint meeting with Northampton County.

### E. Ms. Rohde

Ms. Rohde has nothing to report at this time.

### F. Chairman LeCato

Chairman LeCato reported that the President of the Eastern Shore Community College will be in attendance at the next joint IDA meeting with Northampton County pertaining to jobs that the college has available to residents and how it relates to Wallops, NASA, and the school system.

Chairman LeCato also informed the EDA that he has received the Virginia Farm and Forestry Export Report. He reported the following and the EDA discussed briefly:

#### **Farming report for Virginia Grower's (production):**

- Soybeans: \$794 million
- Soybean meal: \$455 million
- Lumber: \$326 million
- Pork: \$258 million
- Manufactured tobacco: \$204 million
- Poultry: \$195 million
- Processed foods: \$169 million
- Corn: \$146 million
- Wheat: \$123 million
- Animal feed: \$118 million
- Wood pellets: \$113 million
- Seafood/marine: \$34 million
- Peanuts: \$30 million
- Cotton: \$24 million
- Animal fat and oils: \$22 million

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### **Export Report for Virginia provided by the Port Authority:**

- China: \$691million
- Canada: \$279 million
- Switzerland: \$174 million
- Mexico: \$150 million
- Russia: \$124 million
- Japan: \$114 million
- United Kingdom: \$110 million
- Venezuela: \$103 million
- Morocco: \$98 million
- Indonesia: \$94 million

Chairman LeCato informed the EDA that the Board of Supervisors has elected Ms. Stella Rohde to the EDA and reelected Mr. Robert Bloxom and Chairman LeCato.

### **7. STAFF REPORT**

There was no Staff Report.

### **8. MARKETING STRATEGIES**

There were no Marketing Strategies to discuss.

### **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

### **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 regular Economic Development Authority meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa.

The next joint meeting of the Economic Development Authority and the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa.

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made by Ms. Ashby-Hope and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m.**

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Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

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Jessica L. Taylor, Recording Secretary