

EDA AND JIDA JOINT MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Economic Development Authority (EDA), Accomack County, Members Present:

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman
Mr. Robert Bloxom, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wesley Edwards, Treasurer
Mr. C. Ray Davis
Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope
Mr. Calvert Seybolt

Economic Development Authority Members Absent:

Ms. Stella Rohde

Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA), Northampton County, Members Present:

Mr. Bill Parr
Mr. Billy Moore
Mr. John Pavlik
Mr. John Burgiss

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Accomack County, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner
Mr. Paul Muhly, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 4
Dr. Linda Thomas – Glover, President of Eastern Shore Community College
Mr. Chris Holland, Superintendent of Accomack County Public Schools
Mr. Eddie Lawrence, Superintendent of Northampton County Public Schools
Ms. Tamara Sterling, Director of Secondary Education
Mr. Kris Tucker, Northampton County, Director of Economic and. Community Development,

B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum for both committees, the meeting was called to order at 10:43 a.m.

2. DISCUSSION OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE – INTRODUCTION OF SCHOOL BOARD GUESTS

Mr. Eddie Lawrence

Mr. Lawrence stated that working with Northampton County and education is his passion; it is an exciting time to be involved in Secondary Education. Mr. Lawrence informed the committees that the State is redoing its qualifications for a high school diploma, particularly technical skills. The State plans to deemphasize Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and will emphasize workforce readiness skills. High school students will be required to have industry credentials and two (2) to three (3) work-related exposures. Mr. Lawrence discussed additional programs in Northampton County such as horticulture, building trades, auto mechanics, tourism and hospitality, marketing combined with culinary arts. Northampton County plans to have a dual enrollment program with job shadowing and internships in the future. The committees ensued into a question and answer period with Mr. Lawrence.

EDA AND JIDA JOINT MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2016

Mr. Chris Holland

Mr. Holland discussed education and business with the EDA and JIDA. He conveyed anecdotes along with his (and other individuals) experiences with business.

He explained that all parents want their children to be successful. He believes that the Country is based on people working with their hands in the trade industry, even with 4-year degrees.

Mr. Holland expressed that the way for individuals to be successful is by having work ethic and to be humble. He also expressed issues within the community that need to be addressed to help the economy. Mr. Holland expressed that the community needs to be advertised in a competitive manner with all of the aspects that the Eastern Shore has to offer (i.e. Wallops, Tangier, beaches), but he needs housing and jobs for his employees and students.

Mr. Holland discussed recruitment of teachers to Accomack County and what he believes students need to be successful. He would like to continue working with the EDA and JIDA to better the school system and the community. He reiterated that he would like to have education and the work place come together.

Ms. Tamara Sterling

Ms. Sterling stated that Accomack County is working to expand its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Programs, which provides students with a hands-on experience in many career fields.

3. INTRODUCTION OF DR. GLOVER DISCUSS ACCOMACK/NORTHAMPTON EDUCATION

Dr. Linda Thomas – Glover

Mr. LeCato stated that Dr. Glover was invited to attend the meeting to provide information on the expansion of Community College and what programs are being offered in the College for Accomack and Northampton County students that not only attend locally to prepare for going way to a larger college, but those that will remain on the Eastern Shore.

Dr. Glover gave a presentation on Eastern Shore Community College and discussed information on its transfer programs. The College's objective is to offer students their first two (2) years, build a foundation, save parents (students) money, and prepare individuals to be successful.

A copy of this document may be view at the Accomack County Department of Planning and Community Development Office located at: 23282 Courthouse Avenue, Accomack, VA 23301.

She also discussed the plans for the new College building. The EDA asked questions regarding the auto mechanic program and if there is a certificate for hotel training (staff). Ms. Glover stated that Eastern Shore Community College is exploring a hospitality and tourism program.

Mr. Bill Parr, JIDA, discussed economic development and collaboration between the EDA, JIDA, College, and school system. He asked Dr. Glover how the EDA and JIDA can help to fill classrooms at the College. Dr. Glover responded that the College is open to discussions and dialogue. Mr. Parr asked for input from the College so that the EDA and JIDA can contribute collaboratively.

EDA AND JIDA JOINT MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2016

4. **CONSIDERATION OF FREQUENCY IN JOINT MEETING SCHEDULE**

Both the EDA and JIDA expressed that there has been issues with meeting Quarterly. The suggestion was to have bi-annual meetings; spring meetings held in Accomack County and fall meetings held in Northampton County.

It was decided that the next joint meeting should be on the 2nd Tuesday of September 2016, at the Northampton County Administration Building at 10:30 a.m., pending availability. Mr. Parr noted that having two (2) joint meetings a year does not preclude the committees from having special meetings, if necessary.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Bill Parr informed the committees that he has a report from November 2014, "Summary of Safety Enhancements on Route 13" by Robert Weber. Mr. Parr discussed this report to discuss the misconception that Route 13 is the most dangerous highway in Virginia. He states that there are more 21 more dangerous roads in its category. Route 13 is an economic lifeline for Northampton County. Mr. Parr expects there will be an update to the report occurring shortly. He will provide Accomack County with a copy of this report to place in the minutes.

Mr. Parr also stated that JIDA had discussed the idea of a joint website with the EDA and came up with the following ideas:

- The joint website should be hosted on an independent domain;
- There should be links to more attractions and features of the area regarding economic activities and business;
- Creating a website would require some work and design, so a budget should be established;

For the meantime, both EDA and JIDA should add links on its own website to the other's website.

Chairman LeCato stated that Mr. Edwards had been designated at the EDA's liaison for the website. Mr. Edwards responded that he would like to discuss the website at the next EDA meeting and they would report back.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next joint meeting of the Economic Development Authority (EDA), Accomack County and Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA), Northampton County will be held in September 2016.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Seybolt, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

Jessica L. Taylor, Recording Secretary