

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2016

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, Treasurer
Mr. C. Ray Davis
Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope
Mr. Calvert Seybolt
Ms. Stella Rohde

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner
Mr. Paul Muhly, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 4
Ms. Jean Hungiville, Executive Director, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Steve Mallette, Chairman of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce

B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman LeCato opened the floor for the public comment period.

No one signed up or requested to speak.

3. MINUTES

A. April 12, 2016

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the April 12, 2016 minutes.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Edwards reported that there had been no change in the Treasurer's Report.

On a motion made by Mr. Bloxom and seconded by Mr. Seybolt, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the Treasurer's Report from the last meeting.

Mr. Edwards stated that he authorized the payment of the \$125.00 for the sign post as discussed at the prior meeting. Chairman LeCato received an additional bill and Mr. Edwards' confirmed that it was the same bill that he had authorized for payment.

Chairman LeCato presented Mr. Edwards with a copy of the account balance from SunTrust and asked that he confirm he has the same balance; Mr. Edwards stated that it was correct.

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5. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM KAUFMAN & CANOLES, P.C.

Chairman LeCato tabled item 5 momentarily.

Mr. Morrison informed the EDA that they had received an introductory letter from Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.. Northampton County referred the law firm to Accomack County. The EDA has been asked to play the role of a bond conduit for a bank qualified – small issuer Revenue bond which would support the Williamsburg Landing development project. He noted that the EDA would receive a fee for their part.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to move forward on the assistance for the bond referendum.

Chairman LeCato requested that the bond council attend the June meeting and make a presentation; staff will place them on the Agenda.

The EDA discussed bonding criteria; Chairman LeCato requested that Mr. Morrison conduct research with focus on industrial bonds.

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Ms. Rohde

Ms. Rohde has nothing to report at this time.

B. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards passed out a comparison chart of airplane tax rates chart. He stated that Accomack's rates are not competitive as they are at the top of the chart; the airport expansion would not occur with the current rates. Discussed ensued.

Chairman LeCato recommended that members take home the provided documents and come back with proposals at next meeting.

Supervisor Muhly suggested looking into the matter further for the Board of Supervisors' meeting. He agreed to return with a report for the EDA at the June meeting.

Mr. Seybolt questioned that since the Airport Commission does not exist, isn't the Board of Supervisors in charge of the airport

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to add an item to the Closed Session.

C. Mr. Bloxom

Mr. Bloxom stated that for informational purposes, the State Appropriations Committee will be on the Eastern Shore to do a two (2)-day tour on June 20 and 21, 2016. He believed this to be good thing for the Shore.

D. Ms. Ashby-Hope

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

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E. Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis expressed thanks to Representative Bloxom, in reference to the National Park Service, for the letter that he sent. He asked if they should expect additional assistance from the Commonwealth. A brief discussion ensued.

F. Mr. Seybolt

Mr. Seybolt has nothing to report at this time.

G. Chairman LeCato

Chairman LeCato informed the EDA that he had reviewed a copy of the budget and they are staying on track, nothing has changed from the proposed budget. He also stated that they had been provided with a revised list of assets for the park totaling \$383,799 (including land assets), with a projected decreased value of \$136,465. He handed the list to Mr. Edwards for review and to provide explanation at the June meeting.

H. Supervisor Muhly

Supervisor Muhly informed EDA members that a WWII B-25 bomber recently sat on the tarmac for three (3) or four (4) days; unfortunately, its visit was not advertised. He believed that Dr. Miner had a picture.

7. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Morrison reported the following informational points:

- There are currently two (2) companies with prospective interest in the County for solar projects.
- The sawmill in Wachapreague, Virginia is looking to expand.
- Secretary of Commerce completed a tour of the Eastern Shore and attended the Stronger Economies Together (SET) Meeting.
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) collaborated with the County to submit the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant for the new located beach. The first meeting occurred on the new located beach and the future plans were reviewed.
- The National Park Service is working on its own version of a comprehensive plan to include aquaculture.

8. MARKETING STRATEGIES

Chairman LeCato asked Mr. Edwards if he had an update from the website. Mr. Edwards will continue addressing this issue.

Mr. Edwards noted that he would like to have a picture of the WWII B-25 Bomber that was mentioned by Supervisor Muhly.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Industrial Park – Traffic Signal

Mr. Mallette gave a presentation, handed out documents and discussed the traffic light with the EDA on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. He presented four (4) Letters of Support for the traffic light. Letters were from Truss Tech, Inc., Bay Beyond, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, and Eastern Shore Community College.

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Supervisor Muhly stated that Chris Isdell, VDOT, has been making progress on this matter and provided additional information to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Morrison noted that he has also spoken with Mr. Isdell and he is working on the matter, but has not mentioned any construction other than the traffic light. Discussion ensued.

Chairman LeCato requested that Ms. Jean Hungiville have the documents provided sent to Chris Isdell for his records. It was agreed upon to leave the issue alone since it is being actively addressed by VDOT.

Mr. Mallette expressed that the Chamber is interested in a collaborative effort in the EDA's endeavors.

B. Mr. Michael Morgan, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)

Mr. Morgan stated that he was in attendance to follow-up on the progress of the digital sign. He was informed that progress was being made. Mr. Bloxom stated that he expects to have a response from VDOT in the near future and that it looked to be favorable; he recommended no further action be taken at this time.

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. Rohde moved the motion and Ms. Ashby-Hope 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.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the accepted proposal made in closed session in regard to the sale of property in the Industrial Park. Chairman LeCato will advise, in person, current property owners in the Industrial Park.

Chairman LeCato will inform the prospective buyers of the acceptance.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular Economic Development Authority meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport in Melfa.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Rohde, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and recess to reconvene immediately with Northampton.

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

Jessica L. Taylor, Recording Secretary