

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF JULY 12, 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  
Ms. Stella Rohde

##### **Members Absent:**

Mr. Calvert Seybolt

##### **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  
Mr. Harris Phillips, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 5  
Mrs. Barbara Haxter, Accomack County Airport Manager  
Mrs. Cela Burge, Accomack County Attorney

#### **B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:08 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. June 14, 2016**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the June 14, 2016 minutes.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to amend the Agenda to discuss item seven (7) prior to item four (4) and five (5).**

### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Edwards asked that the EDA postpone the election of officers until Mr. Seybolt is in attendance.

**On a motion by Ms. Rohde and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the Economic Development Authority voted to postpone the election of officers until its August 9, 2016 meeting.**

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### 5. **HEAR FROM BARBARA HAXTER, AIRPORT MANAGER, ON A4-F SKYHAWK**

The EDA heard from Mrs. Haxter on the cost to mount the A-4 Seahawk at the front of the airport; she informed the EDA that the cost is approximately \$40,000. Discussion ensued.

The EDA discussed who is responsible for the A-4 Seahawk; it was determined that it was the County's responsibility. The EDA was unwilling to support the purchase of brochures for fundraising to relocate the Seahawk as Mrs. Haxter requested.

### 6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Edwards reported that the EDA's current account balance was \$33,265 and that there was a check outstanding to JTZ for the website. The EDA held a brief discussion in regard to the website.

**On a motion made by Ms. Ashby-Hope and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the Treasurer's Report.**

### 7. **REVIEW AND APPROVE WRITTEN PURCHASE AGREEMENTS AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CLOSING DOCUMENTS**

Mrs. Burge provided and discussed information in regard to purchase agreements between the EDA with Painter Holdings, Inc. and Marshall's Tree Service (MTSF, Inc.), who desire to purchase property in the Industrial Park.

**On a motion made by Mr. Bloxom and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Economic Development Authority voted to accept two (2) agreements of sale; one (1) with Painter Holdings, LLC for 6.75 acres, more or less, and one (1) with MTSF, Inc. for 5.5 acres (more or less) with caveats on the boundaries being placed on the plat correctly.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Economic Development Authority voted to accept two (2) agreements of sale with Painter Holdings, LLC and MTSF, Inc., as outlined.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Economic Development Authority voted to authorize Chairman LeCato to sign the purchase agreements presented.**

**On a motion made by Ms. Rohde and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to make the Subdivision Plat up to date with a cap cost of \$2,500. If the amount exceeds the amount, the Economic Development Authority will discuss at its following meeting.**

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### **8. INDUSTRIAL BOND INFORMATION**

Mr. Morrison suggested that Agenda item 8 be deferred to the EDA's August meeting.

Mr. Morrison informed the EDA that Williamsburg Landing (previously requested a bond) was shopping around and decided to not pursue finances with Accomack County EDA.

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

#### **A. Ms. Rohde**

Ms. Rohde has nothing to report at this time.

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

Mr. Edwards asked Ms. Rohde if she knew who purchased the previous BaySys building. She responded that she did, but at the request of her client, would not release information. She did state that the information is public and it is economic development.

#### **C. Ms. Ashby-Hope**

Ms. Ashby-Hope reported that she has begun to take pictures to update the website.

#### **D. Mr. Bloxom**

Mr. Bloxom informed the EDA that the Port of Virginia will be in Cape Charles again on July 20, 2016.

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

Mr. Davis has nothing to report at this time.

#### **F. Mr. Seybolt**

Mr. Seybolt has nothing to report at this time.

#### **G. Chairman LeCato**

Chairman LeCato discussed a business who previously applied for additional hangar space for international flights from the County airport – The EDA was informed the business had gone to the Easton airport. Mrs. Haxter reached out to the Easton/Newnam Field Airport and was informed that this was not true and it had not bid on any hangar development for any company with flights to South Africa. They did have a hangar built for Trident Aviation and Eastern Hangar, LLC, but neither is involved in flights to South Africa. Chairman LeCato also noted that the tax rate for Easton is 0%, confirmed in writing. Chairman LeCato wanted to have it on record as the Easton Airport is Accomack County's closest competition at the northern end.

Chairman LeCato briefly discussed that The Daily Times is increasing its rates.

Chairman LeCato asked that Mrs. Burge research a bond from July 1, 2007 between the EDA and American Family Services Inc., as it has gone into bankruptcy. Discussion ensued.

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### **10. STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Morrison discussed the following with the EDA:

- a) Triton – Wallops Flight Facility
  - Chairman LeCato requested that staff invite NASA or the NAVY to the August meeting for more information.
- b) Wallops Flight Facility has issued an Environmental Assessment (EA)
  - The EA is for expansion of their airspace which restricts commercial space. Mr. Morrison will email the EDA the restricted airspace map.
- c) Traffic signal at entrance of Industrial Park
  - Expected utility costs have increased
- d) Natural Gas
  - Mr. Morrison has been in contact with two (2) new companies interested in bringing in natural gas to the Eastern Shore; one via pipeline and one via shipping.
- e) Virginia Economic Development Conference

### **11. MARKETING STRATEGIES**

*This agenda item was covered throughout the meeting.*

### **12. NEXT MEETING**

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

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.**

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Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

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Jessica L. Taylor, Recording Secretary