

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2017**

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day May 2017, 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. Calvert Seybolt, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Wesley Edwards, Treasurer  
Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope  
Mr. C. Ray Davis  
Ms. Stella Rohde

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

Mr. Robert Bloxom

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

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner  
Mr. Paul Muhly, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 4  
Mr. Harrison Phillips, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 5  
Ms. Julie Wheatley, Executive Director Wallops Research Park

#### **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 opened the floor for the public comment period.

No one signed up or requested to speak.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **A. April 11, 2017**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the April 11, 2017 minutes.**

#### **B. April 18, 2017 (Joint)**

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Rohde, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the April 18, 2017 Joint meeting minutes.**

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Hear from Julie Wheatley, Wallops Research Park Executive Director regarding the Research Park**

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The EDA listened to Julie Wheatley about the Wallops Research Park (WRP). Mr. Edwards noted that the EDA was interested in jobs and economic development throughout the County. Ms. Wheatley handed out several pieces of information including a presentation on Federal economic development efforts, a WRP brochure, and examples of other types of economic development. The EDA asked questions of Ms. Wheatley and discussion ensued.

Mr. Edwards suggested that the EDA may be able to assist in the development of office space at the Research Park. The EDA discussed some specifics and Ms. Wheatley stated that she would compile some information for the EDA for a future meeting. The EDA also discussed some of the challenges of developing on leased land.

### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Edwards reported that as of May 9, 2017, the balance of the EDA account is \$68,367.87.

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

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

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

Ms. Rohde had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Edwards reported on the status of the EDA's website. He noted that the website is now on the County server, and that JTZ has been notified that the EDA no longer requires their services. Mr. Edwards and Ms. Ashby-Hope have been working on providing current pictures.

Mr. Edwards informed the EDA that he has met with Cela Burge, County Attorney, in order to draft a letter to bond counsel's serving Virginia. He hopes that some letters will be sent out shortly.

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

Mr. Seybolt reported that rentals in Chincoteague are having an average year; sales are good. He noted his concerns with staffing.

#### **D. Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis had nothing to report.

#### **E. Ms. Ashby-Hope**

Ms. Ashby-Hope stated that she has more County pictures to provide to Mr. Edwards.

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### **F. Chairman LeCato**

Mr. LeCato discussed some information he received from Barbara Haxter on the NBAA Trade Show. He noted that it would be prudent for the EDA to ask Ms. Haxter and Ms. Tremblay's supervisors formally about attending. Mr. LeCato stated that he would reach out to Mr. Mason and Mr. Morrison.

Mr. Muhly asked if there was an update on the Industrial Park traffic light. The EDA did not have any new information.

Ms. Rohde asked about the Broadband discussion held during the Joint meeting with the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority. The EDA discussed its interest in having full coverage throughout the County and the current status of availability.

**On a motion made by Mr. Seybolt and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors to investigate and report on what it would take to provide full broadband coverage throughout the County.**

### **7. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Tremblay had nothing to report.

### **8. MARKETING STRATEGIES**

This item was covered under 'Informational Report from Chairman and Members.

### **9. GENERAL CONVERSATION ON JOINT MEETING ITEMS**

The EDA discussed the comments made at the Joint EDA/JIDA meeting on April 18, 2017. This included general discussion on the railroad and economic development.

### **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular Economic Development Authority meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference Room, in Melfa, Virginia.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made by Mr. Seybolt and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m.**

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Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

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Kristen M. Tremblay, Assistant Planner