

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2019

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 12th day of February 2019, in the Accomack County Airport Conference Room, in Melfa, Virginia.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Economic Development Authority Members Present:

Ms. Stella Rohde, Chairwoman
Mr. Calvert “Ace” Seybolt, Treasurer
Mr. John H. “Jack” Tarr
Mr. Andy Mason
Ms. Iravon Ashby-Hope

Economic Development Authority Members Absent:

Mr. Robert Bloxom

Others Present:

Mr. Paul Muhly, BOS
Mr. Harrison Phillips, BOS
Ms. Deb Christie
Mr. Thomas Johnson, ESCC
Mr. David Lumgair, EDA appointment effective 2/19/19
Ms. Julie Bellamy, Recording Secretary

B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a 5 of 7 member quorum, the meeting was called to order at 8:55 a.m.

2. GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Chris Isdell from VDOT addressed the EDA to give an update on the traffic signal. Identified as SMART project with accelerated funding. Funding of \$978,000 is in place. Scope includes signal, widening of Rt. 13 and removal of existing crossover at ESCC. Completion expected summer of 2020. VDOT did not give any indication that lighting of Parkway was an expectation of the project. Mr. Muhly asked if any land would need to be donated for the project. Mr. Isdell mentioned VDOT was requesting ESCC donate land for ROW from several parcels and asked if the EDA would give access or transfer ownership on the small slither of the corner for widening the turn lane.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A. Mr. Johnson passed out proposed entrepreneur workshop held by Mr. Cronin who was the guest speaker at the January EDA meeting.

4. MINUTES

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A. January 8, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Tarr and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope to accept the minutes from the January 8, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion carried with unanimous in favor. Mr. Lumgair noted he would be abstaining from voting at this meeting as his appointment was not effective until 2/19/19.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Treasurer Calvert Seybolt reported there was over \$107,000 in the checking account, a record. There were no bills, moneys to be deposited after signatures. Lawn mower bills received before this meeting for a total of approximately \$190.00. Mr. Mason made a motion to pay and Ms. Ashby-Hope seconded it. All were in favor of paying the lawn mower maintenance invoices. Mr. Seybolt asked about budget requests and Ms. Bellamy stated Mr. Edwards had given the OK to proceed with same levels and indicated she would forward the e-mail to the Treasurer. Mr. Mason made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Ms. Ashby-Hope made the second and all were in favor.

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

- A. Ms. Ashby-Hope gave an update on photos for the website. She selected which ones she would like included from the disk provided. Julie Bellamy to forward selections to Ben Fox for inclusion on the EDA page of the Accomack County website.
- B. Mr. Seybolt congratulated Ms. Rhode on her appointment to Chairperson and asked if a letter could go to former Chairman Edwards. Action to send letter of appreciation. Mr. Seybolt brought up the possibility of locating Punkin Chunkin to Accomack County and asked if he could make some phone calls. Mr. Johnson stated education could leverage the opportunity beyond obvious tourism advantages.
- C. Mr. Mason state he was in Richmond and it was a good listening exercise.
- D. Mr. Muhly mentioned he would wait.
- E. Mr. Phillips had nothing to report.
- F. Mr. Tarr had nothing to report.
- G. Mr. Johnson reiterated the ODU partnering opportunity in entrepreneurship and expectation for pitch competition in the spring.
- H. Ms. Ashby-Hope had nothing to report.
- I. Mr. Lumgair was listening and getting his feet wet.
- J. Ms. Rohde stated she would wait to comment.

7. STAFF REPORT

A. Ms. Bellamy announced she would be retiring from Accomack County effective March 1, 2019 and was unaware who would be taking her place.

8. MARKETING STRATEGIES

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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- A.** Vice Chairman's election was discussed and it was decided to wait for the next meeting.
- B.** By-laws were discussed as to updating the 2009 record. Mr. Tarr mentioned the meetings must be in Accomack County text may want to be updated to accommodate joint meetings.
- C.** Virginia Code Powers of the Authority discussion led to Mr. Muhly reading a letter from Mr. Mason to the BOS surrounding control. Discussion which followed surrounded EDA expanding their influence across the County vs just the Industrial Park property. Ms. Rohde added Mr. Mason had scheduled a meeting with her. She stated to Mr. Mason that leads within the County BP&ED should be shared with the EDA which supported Mr. Muhly's statement. Mr. Mason told her the EDA was to only work for the Industrial Park. Much discussion which followed surrounding control of economic development. Mr. Muhly brought up the aircraft tax and stated it was the BOS responsibility. Mr. Lungair commented marketing efforts may include letting the county citizens know what the EDA does. Mr. Muhly offered to speak to the new BOS Chair Donald Hart about cooperation and representation at future meetings. Mr. Muhly brought up the need for Natural Gas and Rich Morrison was identified as the County point person. Outreach to Bonding Agencies with \$8M available in CY2019 pending.
- D.** Streetlight installation was discussed. No action taken.
- E.** Broadband discussions continued. No action taken.
- F.** Possibly of losing \$7,500 of FY2020 budget was discussed as was charging the county for future bonding issue (aka pending library \$2M) and EDA attendance at public budget hearing.
- G.** Mr. Muhly reported on terrible shape the Airport Tarmac was in.
- H.** Mr. Tarr stated research into the Power of Authority may be different from existing Code.

11. OTHER MATTERS

- A.** Ms. Bellamy asked how the phone numbers on the "for sale" signs should read. It was decided Ms. Rohde's number would replace Mr. Edward's contact information.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session motion "Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.5 of the Code of Virginia for the discussion concerning prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the businesses or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community" was made by Ms. Ashby-Hope and seconded by Mr. Tarr all were in favor of going into closed session at 10:19 am.

At 11:45 a.m. the public was readmitted to the meeting and a motion was made to reconvene in open session & certify by a roll call vote that only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion to convene in closed meeting were heard, considered, or discussed in the closed meeting. Mr. Seybolt: Aye, Mr. Mason: Aye, Ms. Ashby-Hope: Aye, Ms. Rohde: Aye, Mr. Tarr: Aye

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No action was taken as a result of closed session.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next regular Economic Development Authority meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference Room, in Melfa, Virginia.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Tarr and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, to adjourn the Economic Development Authority meeting at 12:10 a.m. All were in favor.

Ms. Stella Rohde, Chairperson

Recording Secretary