

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day September 2015, 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. Robert Bloxom, Vice Chairman

Mr. Wesley Edwards

Ms. Shirley Zamora

Mr. Calvert Seybolt

Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope

Mr. C. Ray Davis

#### **Economic Development Authority Members Absent:**

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

#### **Others Present:**

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner

### B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The floor was opened for the public comment period. No one signed up or requested to speak.

## 3. MINUTES

### A. August 4, 2015

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the minutes of the special meeting on August 4, 2015 as presented.**

### B. August 11, 2015

The EDA discussed the website and if the website provider JTZ currently sends a summary of inquiries. Mr. Edwards stated that he would acquire the inquiry report from the EDA website provider JTZ and that the minutes of August 11, 2015 should reflect the clarification.

**On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Seybolt, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the minutes of August 11, 2015 with**

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**modifications.**

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vice Chairman Bloxom reported that he received a bill for \$525 for landscaping of the marquee for the front of the Industrial Park. The EDA discussed and determined that it had already authorized the payment. Mr. Edwards stated that he would take care of it.

### **5. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

#### **A. Mr. Seybolt**

Mr. Seybolt reported that Chincoteague is having a good summer and has been busy.

#### **B. Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis has nothing to report at this time.

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

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

#### **D. Ms. Zamora**

Ms. Zamora asked if she had sent information on the EB-5 program to the rest of the EDA. It was determined that the information had been received via email. She reported that Washington had just come back and that they are working on other items at the time. She reported that she believes that Senator Grassley had the most problems with the program and that the Congressman from Virginia has been having difficulty with the fraud as well.

#### **E. Mr. Edwards**

Mr. Edwards handed out materials to the EDA on the EB-5 program as well as materials from the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority's (JIDA) last meeting. He wanted the EDA to be aware of what the JIDA discussed.

Ms. Zamora reported to the EDA that Washington staff told her that no legislation has been introduced to reauthorize the program at this point and that they are still reviewing issues. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Edwards asked the EDA if it had discussed bringing in someone to educate the EDA on what would be required to set up a Regional Center. The EDA discussed that a separate entity would need to be set up and that the EDA would also need \$150,000 in order to get through all the legal requirements.

Mr. Edwards stated that he will be going to speak with Scott Rigel's office about the

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EB-5 program.

Rich Morrison advised the EDA that if they would like to pursue the EB-5 program, he recommends that they either hire a consultant or try to bring in a non-competing Regional Center representative to see if they would be willing to discuss how to set up a Regional Center. He also advised the EDA that both options would cost the EDA some money and that they should consider whether it wanted to pursue the program or not. Ms. Zamora stated that she believes that at the moment, the program is not authorized and does not exist.

Mr. Davis asked if there were currently any EB-5 projects on the Eastern Shore, and that if it was possible to get this type of development on the Eastern Shore, why would the EDA need to set up a Regional Center to promote the area. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Zamora stated that the EDA would need to think about what kind of projects could be funded. She talked about the types of projects that could be region specific for the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Bloxom stated that if they do not reauthorize the funds, the EDA would not be able to pursue the program regardless and suggested that the EDA discuss the program at its next meeting. Ms. Zamora stated that she is opposed to the program due to the fraud.

### **F. Mr. Bloxom**

Mr. Bloxom reported that both the proposed digester and the Port Authority in Cape Charles appear to be picking up speed. He also reported that Tyson Foods, Inc. is bringing in new poultry houses.

## **6. STAFF REPORT**

Rich Morrison reported that he will be meeting with Tyson as well as the people who are proposing the digester. He also reported that there will be a high level briefing on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Chincoteague on Thursday August 13, 2015.

Mr. Morrison reported to the EDA that Eastern Shore Solar, LLC. will be going to the Virginia State Corporation Commission. The SCC will set the value and the County will apply the taxes. He reported that what the state sets as the value is what Eastern Shore Solar, LLC. will pay.

## **7. MARKETING STRATEGIES**

Nothing to report at this time.

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**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. **at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce** in Melfa.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made by Ms. Zamora, and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.**

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Mr. John LeCato, Chairman