

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2015

At a joint meeting of the Economic Development Authority and the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority held on the 13th day October 2015, in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, in Melfa, Virginia.

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
Ms. Shirley Zamora
Mr. Calvert Seybolt
Mr. C. Ray Davis

Economic Development Authority Members Absent:

Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner
Michael Mason, Director of Finance
William Parr, Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority
Stephen Warren, Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority
Patrick Coady, Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority
John Pavlik, Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority
Nyoka Hall, Northampton Planning Department Administrator
Mickey LaVoie
Edward Nibloch
Paul Berge, Eastern Shore Library Board

B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

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3. MINUTES

A. September 8, 2015

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the minutes of September 8, 2015 as presented.

4. PRESENTATION FROM PAUL BERGE ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. Paul Berge introduced himself. He referred to a Pew Research Report regarding libraries entitled '*Libraries at the Crossroads.*' Mr. Berge informed the EDA of the Library Board's current plans to update the facility. The Library Board is no longer considering a site in front of the financial building in Onley, however two (2) other options are being considered. One (1) is to update the current facility, and the other is to modify the existing Fresh Pride building in Parksley.

Mr. Berge informed the EDA of trends in the library industry, stating that research suggests fewer needs for books, but space and internet needs still exist.

He also reminded the EDA that the Accomack County Board of Supervisors had committed two (2) million dollars to the project in May, and went into further detail about the proposed locations.

Mr. Morrison told Mr. Berge that he had asked him to further acquaint the EDA with the Library proposal as the EDA had expressed some interest in writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors. The EDA asked questions of Mr. Berge and discussion ensued. Chairman LeCato thanked Mr. Berge for coming.

5. CONSIDER REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Mr. William Parr discussed with both the EDA and the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA) the desire to consider regional approaches to economic development on the Eastern Shore.

He proposed that the EDA and the JIDA begin a series of semi-annual meetings with alternate locations. He suggested a fixed program that as opportunities arise, meetings could be added to the agenda with the potential for meeting more frequently to create momentum. He also adds that bringing the Accomack – Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) into the meetings may also assist in completing 'a regional picture.' The EDA and JIDA discussed the proposal and current economic development trends in the region. Ms. Zamora stated that she supports a regional collaboration.

Mr. Parr thanked the EDA for listening, and Chairman LeCato stated that the EDA will likely discuss the proposal for a regional collaboration.

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6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Edwards stated that he has not drawn down any bills besides the \$500 for landscaping last month.

7. COUNTY BOND

Mr. Mason, Director of Finance informed the EDA that the Board of Supervisors had approved \$4.3 million financing on projects that are on the Capital Improvement Plan. The Accomack County Board of Supervisors has chosen the EDA as the conduit for issuing the bond. Mr. Mason asked that the EDA adopt a resolution that states the EDA will issue the bond and authorize the Chairman to sign all the documentation associated with the bond. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Edwards stated that part of the EDA's revenue source is bonding and that he did not see any revenue income from this bond proposal. Mr. Mason stated that fees have historically not been passed on to the County. Chairman LeCato stated that the EDA does not charge the Accomack County taxpayers on bonds issued to the County. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Zamora asked if there was risk to the EDA. Mr. Mason stated that the risk would be to the County if the debt was not paid, the lender would take possession of the County's security.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Bloxom, the Economic Development Authority voted to authorize Chairman LeCato to sign the County bond documents

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Mr. Seybolt

Mr. Seybolt reported that Chincoteague is wrapping up a good year. He also stated that the BaySys property did pay its real estate taxes in time, so it did not go to auction, however the adjacent property has been purchased.

B. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards has nothing to report at this time.

C. Ms. Zamora

Ms. Zamora has nothing to report at this time.

D. Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis reported that he has a concern about the National Park Services land grab for aquaculture areas and fin-fishing to replace with a kayaking enterprise. Mr. Bloxom responded and stated that he had a meeting at the Attorney General's office

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last week. Mr. Bloxom reported that the National Park Service is questioning their jurisdiction of water rights.

E. Mr. Bloxom

Mr. Bloxom reported that he has been in contact with the Port of Virginia and that there is need to find items to return on the barges as they will not allow for empty barges. Discussion ensued.

F. Chairman LeCato

Chairman LeCato has nothing to report at this time.

9. STAFF REPORT

Rich Morrison reported that he has included information on the 'ESVA Stronger Economies Together' (SET) Program. He invited the EDA and stated that he will send the EDA more information at a later date.

He also reported that he has been working with KMX in New Church on an expansion and Virginia Economic Development Partnership to acquire Enterprise Zone funds and Commonwealth Opportunity funds.

10. MARKETING STRATEGIES

Mr. Edwards referred to the EDA's website and stated that while the Northampton JIDA is in attendance, the website may be a great opportunity to collaborate.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Patrick Coady informed the EDA and JIDA that the FCC has set aside a band of cellular network in the 700 mHz range that caused the creation of a new authority with a goal of creating a nationwide first responders network. He stated that they will be pursuing a planning grant to come up with a broadband and communications strategy for the County of Northampton. He then asked the EDA if they were interested in being a part of the planning grant.

12. 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. Mr. Bloxom moved the motion and Ms. Zamora 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.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference room.

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14. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Bloxom and seconded by Mr. Seybolt, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman