

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF APRIL 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
Mr. Calvert Seybolt

Economic Development Authority Members Absent:

Ms. Stella Rohde

Others Present:

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner
Mr. Paul Muhly, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 4
Mr. Harris Phillips, Board of Supervisors' Liaison, District 5
Mr. Michael Morgan, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)

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 stated that the Public Comment Period would be handled later in the meeting.

Mr. Michael Morgan, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Advocate for Pilot's Association of Accomack County. The Association would like to improve airport quality and the community. Mr. Morgan stated that last month he attended the EDA Meeting to find out what the possibility would be of having the sign on the highway turned on or a digital sign? He would like to know if the EDA has come to a conclusion. Mr. Edwards passed out materials, which were from a presentation that he did for the EDA two (2) years ago. Mr. Edwards included a chart of shopping centers 'owned' by EDA's and estimated cost of digital signs. Discussion ensued.

It was determined that if the EDA advertises for anyone other than itself, it would have to pay the County; they may be able to advertise businesses located within the Industrial Park. The EDA discussed options for a sign.

Mr. Seybolt asked if there was an airport commission, it was determined that there is no longer and airport commission and the EDA has nothing to do with the airport as it is a separate entity. Discussion ensued.

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Mr. Bloxom stated that he thinks the sign is a good idea; the issue is going to be who manages the details before the EDA votes whether or not to spend the money.

Mr. Davis would like to know the total cost (to include maintenance, upkeep, etc.) Chairman LeCato asked if he should contact the Chamber of Commerce about maintenance.

Chairman LeCato asked for a consensus and all members seemed to be interested in pursuing more information. Mr. Bloxom stated that he would be willing to look into the matter further.

3. MINUTES

A. March 8, 2016

Place Mr. Robert Bloxom under the list of absent members as he was not in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the March 8, 2016 minutes as amended.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Edwards reported that the EDA has a current balance of \$35,452.71.

Mr. Davis arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Chairman LeCato informed the EDA that he had a bill from Brenner Flight concerning the fertilization of the entrance with a balance of \$125, part of the original contract. Mr. Edwards raised concern in regard to how much was approved for the work. Discussion ensued.

Chairman LeCato stated that the Airport needed to be made aware that no bills can be paid without bring approved by the EDA. He will take the bill with him and call following the meeting.

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

5. DISCUSSION OF JOINT EDA/JIDA MEETINGS

Chairman LeCato reported that Northampton cancelled due to a schedule conflict. Bill Parr has assigned Kris Tucker, Planning Director to set up the next meeting with Accomack County. The meeting will be focused on Education and Workforce.

Chairman LeCato requested to schedule the next meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on May 10, 2016 at 10:30 a.m., if possible.

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Ms. Ashby-Hope

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

B. Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis has nothing to report at this time.

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C. Mr. Seybolt

Mr. Seybolt has nothing to report at this time.

D. Mr. Bloxom

Mr. Bloxom reported that the Senate Transportation Finance is on the Eastern Shore today. Also, the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee of the House will take a tour of the Eastern Shore in June. The full Agriculture Senate and House (he believes) will be on the Eastern Shore in September.

Mr. Bloxom reported that the Traffic Light was not included in the College funding.

E. Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards reported that he pulled a report from the website for 2015 and 2016; the page has received much more activity than imagined. He stated that pages on the website are being looked at and read. He gave an overview of his findings. Discussion ensued.

Supervisor Muhly suggested that the EDA review the report with the County IT Department. Chairman LeCato appointed Mr. Edwards with investigating further.

F. Chairman LeCato

Chairman LeCato informed the EDA that seven (7) people had applied for the Maintenance position at the Airport. He expects that the position will be filled by the 3rd week of April.

Chairman LeCato stated that he needed to contact Mr. Chris Isdell, VDOT. Mr. Bloxom stated that the VDOT scoring has changed and the Board of Supervisors would need to make sure the Traffic Light was in the queue. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bloxom will try to have more information for the May meeting; Mr. LeCato stated that this issue needs to be a priority, Mr. Muhly express that he agreed.

7. STAFF REPORT

There was no Staff Report.

8. MARKETING STRATEGIES

Mr. Edwards addressed this during his informational report with the website information. Mr. Edwards stated that he does not mind doing the liaison work, but the website needs to be refreshed. Chairman LeCato stated that the EDA does not have a staff at the present time, but maybe they could have the County IT take on the project. Discussion ensued.

Chairman LeCato assigned Mr. Edwards with going to the County to discuss adding a link on the County website to the EDA website.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

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10. 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. Edwards moved the motion and Ms. Ashby-Hope 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.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular Economic Development Authority meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa.

The next joint meeting of the Economic Development Authority and the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Seybolt, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Mr. John LeCato, Chairman

Jessica L. Taylor, Recording Secretary