

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2017

At a meeting of the Economic Development Authority held on the 8th day of August 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. Wesley Edwards, Chairman
Ms. Stella Rohde, Vice Chairwoman
Mr. John LeCato
Mr. Robert Bloxom
Ms. Ira Ashby-Hope
Mr. C. Ray Davis

Members Absent:

Mr. Calvert Seybolt, Treasurer

Others Present:

Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Assistant Planner
Ms. Julie Wheatley, Executive Director Wallops Research Park
Mr. Peter Bale, Wallops Island Regional Alliance

B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. HEAR FROM PETER BALE, WALLOPS ISLAND REGIONAL ALLIANCE

Mr. Bale gave the EDA an overview of how the Wallops Island Regional Alliance (WIRA) was created from the Eastern Shore Defense Alliance (ESDA) and its mission to support and grow the infrastructure at the Wallops Island Facilities.

Mr. Edwards asked if there was a way for the EDA to assist WIRA in its efforts as the EDA is a bonding authority. There was discussion on the request. Mr. Bale invited the EDA to attend the next WIRA meeting in October and to research a company called 'Insitu.' The EDA discussed if there was a need for a maker space (a community center that provides technology, manufacturing equipment and educational opportunities to the public).

**A link to the Wallops Island Regional Alliance may be found here: <http://wiralliance.org/>*

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

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4. MINUTES

A. July 18, 2017

On a motion made by Ms. Rohde and seconded by Ms. Ashby-Hope, the Economic Development Authority voted to approve the July 18, 2017 minutes.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Edwards reported that because Mr. Seybolt was absent, he is unable to present new information. He did note that he gave Mr. Seybolt the bill for the VA Corp Liability Insurance.

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

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

A. Mr. LeCato

Mr. LeCato reported that he had documents to give to Mr. Edwards referring to the Industrial Park, including maps. He suggested that Mr. Edwards review the EDA files.

B. Ms. Rohde

Ms. Rohde has nothing to report at this time.

C. Mr. Bloxom

Mr. Bloxom has nothing to report at this time.

D. Ms. Ashby-Hope

Ms. Ashby-Hope asked Mr. Edwards if he had received the pictures she had taken for the website.

E. Chairman Edwards

Mr. Edwards led a discussion on the presentation given by Mr. Bale. Mr. Bloxom noted that unless the EDA would like to become landlords, it would be risky as the EDA does not have a positive cash flow. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Edwards stated that he had been in contact with Kaufman and Knowles regarding a bond request. He mentioned that a representative would likely be at the EDA's September meeting.

Mr. Edwards informed the EDA that he has spoken to Mr. Bill Parr, Chairman of the Northampton Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA) regarding the upcoming joint meeting with the EDA.

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7. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Tremblay has nothing to report at this time.

8. MARKETING STRATEGIES

Mr. Edwards reported that the EDA's materials on the County's website is up and functioning. He stated that there was a problem with the page on the Enterprise Zone, but it has since been corrected.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Joint Meeting with Northampton JIDA Discussion

Mr. Edwards stated that he thinks joint meetings with JIDA are something the EDA should do for regional funding purposes. Discussion ensued.

B. By-laws Discussion

Mr. Edwards suggested that the EDA consider an amendment to the By-laws in reference to the election of officers as he feels that the State and Federal elections have a much smoother process- voted in, and then take office later.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resume Discussion on Stormwater in the Industrial Park

The EDA discussed managing the acreage necessary to assist the two parcels that have been sold in meeting their stormwater requirements. Discussion ensued.

B. Letter to the Board of Supervisors on Broadband

Mr. Edwards wanted the EDA to review the letter that had been written by the EDA for the Board of Supervisors regarding Broadband. He then read aloud an email written by Mr. Bill Parr to Northampton County Board of Supervisors Chairman Murray in regards to Broadband. Discussion ensued.

11. OTHER MATTERS

Mr. LeCato read aloud a letter to the EDA of his resignation from the EDA. He showed appreciation to all persons in the room, and noted that this was his 121st meeting serving on the EDA.

Mr. Edwards asked Mr. LeCato if he would be willing to continue to serve. Mr. LeCato graciously declined.

12. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Edwards stated that he has been speaking with Mr. Parr regarding the joint meeting and that the date has not yet been finalized.

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The next regular Economic Development Authority meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Accomack County Airport Conference Room, in Melfa, Virginia.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. LeCato and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Economic Development Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Mr. Wesley Edwards, Chairman

Kristen M. Tremblay, Assistant Planner