

Economic Development Authority
Minutes
December 9, 2021
6:00 p.m.

The Lee County Economic Development Authority met in regular session Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse located in Jonesville, Virginia. Present were Chairman Greg Edwards, Vice-Chairman Paul Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer Liz Myers, Board Members Chad Hines, A.J. Hatmaker and Mark Long, Community Development Director Richard Johnson, Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder, EDA Attorney Rick Callahan and Amy Byington. Board Member Ray Blair was unable to attend meeting.

Chairman Edwards determined that a quorum was present then called the meeting to order.

Approval of EDA Minutes

Chairman Edwards called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2021 meeting.

Mark Long made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2021 meeting. Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Approval of EDA Financial Report, Bills & Payments

Liz Myers made a motion to approve the financial report, bills & payments for the month of December. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Edwards asked about the Bank of America credit card charge for recording of deed. (St. Charles property)

Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder stated that she had made a mistake on the entry of the financial report. The credit card charge was for COIP property not the St. Charles property. Ms. Wilder stated that she will make the correction.

Old Business

Chairman Edwards asked if there was any progress on the Chamber of Commerce.

Director Johnson stated that he has included the Chamber on the agenda under Reports and Recommendations of the Director.

New Business

Paul's Fan Company Meeting Invitation

Director Johnson stated that he had spoken with Todd Elswick and that Mr. Elswick has invited the board members to attend a workshop December 16, 2021 at 10:30 in Grundy, VA.

Produce Auction Zoom Meeting

Director Johnson stated that he had sent an email to the board members with an invitation to the upcoming meeting for any individual that wanted to participate.

Leading Lee / Amy Byington

Amy Byington was not present at the meeting.

Director Johnson stated that Ms. Byington will be attending the meeting to talk with the Board and that she has been out of town and will be stopping in when she gets back to Lee County. Director Johnson stated that he had included a proposed flyer in the board packets.

England Furniture Building Issues

Director Johnson talked to the Board regarding the restrooms at the Dryden building. He said that Jeff Harber said that their plans are to expand the current plant employment and he has asked if the Board can do anything to help ease the strain that it will put on the restroom facilities.

The Board also discussed the parking situation at the Dryden building.

Reports & Recommendations of the Board

None

Reports & Recommendations of the Director

Lenowisco Regional Small Business Recovery Assistance

Director Johnson reported the totals of assistance provided to Lee County businesses in this final round of the program.

Amy Byington entered and spoke to the Board about the proposed leadership program.

It was the consensus of the Board for Amy to take charge and proceed with the program as she sees fit.

Reimbursement for Produce Auction Feasibility Study

Director Johnson informed the board that the reimbursements for the initial payment on the feasibility study were approved and expected to hit the account within the next two weeks.

Roundtable Participation

Director Johnson stated that Karen Maggard and Keith Harless from the Town of Pennington, Randall Thompson (LMU Vet School, Airen Glass, and someone from Wilderness Road State Park have responded. He said he has not had any response from the Town of Jonesville.

Chairman Edwards stated that Stone Mountain could be a possible meeting place.

Mark Long stated that they are welcome to use the Career Center.

Chairman Edwards stated he would contact Stone Mountain and see if we can get an agreeable date scheduled.

VCEDA Seed Capital Results

Director Johnson stated that both Lee County applicants Lee Driving and Appa Valley, LLC have received funding.

Extension for disbursement has been granted for Paul's Fan Company through November of 2022.

Grand Opening Ceremonies

Director Johnson recommended that each of the businesses the Authority recently funded through the Small Business Lending Account be recognized in the near future with a grand opening ceremony.

DMME

Director Johnson informed the Board that he was working with Virginia Energy (previously DMME) and conducting due diligence on the potential future economic development sites.

Executive Session

Paul Johnson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Section 2.2-3711 A.1 (Employment, Personnel) Section 2.2-3711A.6 (Investing of Public Funds/Contracts) and Section 2.2-3711A.7 (Consultation with Legal Counsel). A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

_____ made a motion to come out of executive session. _____ seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Edwards polled the Board that they only discussed issues pertaining to the entry of executive session.

Mark Long made a motion to give a Christmas Bonus to employee A for the same amount as last year. A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Chad Hines made a motion to adjourn. Paul Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Development Secretary

Cathy Wilder

December 13, 2021

Community Development Director

Richard Johnson II

December 20, 2021