

Economic Development Authority  
Minutes  
November 4, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

The Lee County Economic Development Authority met in regular session Thursday, November 4, 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 Ray Blair, Chad Hines and Mark Long, Community Development Director Richard Johnson, EDA Attorney Rick Callahan, Rick Watson with Powell Valley News, Daniel Osborne and Deana Osborne. Board Member A.J. Hatmaker and Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder were 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 October 7, 2021 meeting.

Mark Long made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of EDA Financial Report, Bills & Payments**

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

**Old Business**

**TRRC Grant**

Director Johnson informed the Board that the reimbursement for 90% of an invoice totaling \$30,150 previously paid to The Lane Group for services rendered had been received since the last meeting. He also indicated that this grant had been officially finalized.

**New Business**

**Board of Supervisors Note**

Chairman Edwards requested that this item be taken up in Executive Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A.6 (Investing of Public Funds) if agreeable with everyone.

**Reports & Recommendations of the Board**

Ray Blair requested an update on obtaining a list of individuals and organizations that would like to be involved in a meeting with the EDA concerning potential revitalization or formation of an active Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Edwards suggested getting the towns involved, WRSP, Shirley Watson, etc.

Ray Blair suggested Erin Glass be contacted. (Small Business Incubator)

Paul Johnson suggested that individuals from each organization be invited to a round table meeting as well as our regularly scheduled meetings. He asked Director Johnson to make these initial contacts and report back to the Board so that meeting dates could be discussed.

### **Reports & Recommendations of the Director**

#### **LENOWISCO Regional Small Business Recovery Assistance**

Director Johnson informed the Board that LENOWISCO was still accepting applications for the second round of the second allocation of the LRSBRA program. As of the meeting the first round of the second allocation had totaled \$55,016.42 to small businesses within the County. Round two totals had not been tallied, however, if funding remained the deadline for the third round would be December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Chairman Edwards requested a list of those businesses be provided if possible.

Ray Blair asked about the requirements and the intended uses of the grant funding.

Director Johnson informed the Board of the various requirements and covered uses.

#### **Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Grant Support Letter**

Director Johnson informed the Board that with the permission of Chairman Edwards earlier in the month, his office sent out a support letter for the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority's application to the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Grant to seek additional funding for site development at the Project Intersection regional industrial park located within the City of Norton upon receiving a request from their Executive Director Craig Seaver. He stated that a copy of the letter was included in the Board packets for reference.

Ray Blair questioned how the project would support Lee County and whether there were guarantees of Lee County jobs.

Director Johnson informed the Board of the public agreements that are currently in place between each of the member localities related to revenue sharing and that each project will require individual agreements moving forward.

#### **VCEDA Seed Capital Applicants**

Director Johnson informed the Board that earlier that day, both SoVa Gardens (Appa Valley LLC) and Lee Driving School had their preliminary interviews with VCEDA's project review committee and that results of those would be available in coming weeks.

#### **England Furniture**

Director Johnson informed the Board that also included in their packets was a flyer received from plant manager Jeff Harber for an upcoming hiring event with open interviews Tuesday November the 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-2:30pm.

### **Produce Auction Feasibility Study**

Director Johnson informed the Board that he had been in contact with Tony Banks, and that they have requested an informational and expectational type zoom call with all of the interested parties. He informed the Board that upon receipt of the scheduled date, it would be forwarded to each of the members if they elect to participate.

### **Executive Session**

Ray Blair made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Section 2.2-3711 A.1 (Employment, Personnel) Section 2.2-3711A.4 (Protection of the Privacy of Individuals) Section 2.2-3711A.5 (Discussion of Prospective Business) Section 2.2-3711A.6 (Investing of Public Funds/Contracts) and Section 2.2-3711A.7 (Consultation With Legal Counsel). Paul Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Johnson made a motion to come out of executive session. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Edwards made a motion to approve a loan to Business A for \$15,000.00 at 3% interest for a term of 3 years from the Small Business Lending account. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Johnson made a motion to allow EDA Attorney Rick Callahan to institute collection proceedings on Southwest Propane. Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Edwards called for a motion to approve the note sent over by the Board of Supervisors.

Due to lack of a motion, signing of the note failed.

Ray Blair made a motion to adjourn. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Development Secretary  
Cathy Wilder  
November 9, 2021

Community Development Director  
Richard Johnson II  
November 23, 2021