

Economic Development Authority
Minutes
March 3, 2022
6:00 p.m.

The Lee County Economic Development Authority met in regular session Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse located in Jonesville, Virginia. Present were Chairman Greg Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer Liz Myers, Board Members Chad Hines, A.J. Hatmaker and Ray Blair, Community Development Director Richard Johnson, Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder, EDA Attorney Rick Callahan and Rick Watson with Powell Valley News. Vice-Chairman Paul Johnson and Board Member Mark Long 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 January 13, 2022 meeting.

Ray Blair made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2022 meeting. Liz Myers 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 March. Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Community Roundtable-Chamber of Commerce

Director Johnson stated that the February EDA meeting was cancelled and it was the consensus of the authority to move the date to March 24th which happened to fall during Lee County Public School's spring break. He said it was his intent to send out a doodle poll which pulls up a calendar where you can select what dates work for you.

Ray Blair asked Director Johnson who has been contacted.

Director Johnson stated that the towns have been contacted and that the Town of Jonesville has still not responded. He told Ray Blair that he will get a copy of the list of the individuals that have been contacted.

VCEDA Disbursement Extension Request-Dryden Building

Director Johnson stated that the EDA did get approval at the latest VCEDA full board meeting to extend the \$20,000.00 disbursement deadline for an additional year. He said the request is now valid through March 24, 2023.

Director Johnson stated that the County VCEDA Fund Report is included in the revised packet and there is \$123,891.00 in the account to which an application could be made to resolve the issues at the Dryden building if the Authority elects to do so.

New Business

IRS Reporting

Director Johnson told the Board that Sharon Lawson has printed the 1099 forms for the EDA in the past but she has been in the hospital and was unable to take care of them this year. Diana Pope was contacted and got the required documents out prior to the IRS deadline.

Budget Request

Director Johnson stated that the budget request to the Board of Supervisors is due March 10th and that there are copies of multiple different local authorities funding sources included in revised packets for review. He said he highlighted the sources of funding that come directly from the county, he went over the list of EDA operating expenses for one year which totaled \$21,456.00.

Director Johnson said that at a joint meeting in July 2021 Mr. Mosley had suggested that the EDA submit a budget request.

Chairman Edwards suggested to get a copy to Vice-Chairman Paul Johnson ASAP and let him review it. He said that Vice-Chairman Johnson is interested in a budget and has been for many years.

Chairman Edwards suggested to approve a committee to look at the budget.

Ray Blair made a motion to appoint Paul Johnson, Liz Myers and A.J. Hatmaker as committee members to approve a budget request. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Edwards asked Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder to get the information to Vice-Chairman Paul Johnson.

Reports & Recommendations of the Board

Chairman Edwards stated that he has received a quarterly email news letter from Wise County IDA regarding available funding sources. He said we have these extra funds for marketing from VCEDA and he asked Director Johnson to check into it. He asked why can't we use what we had previously been sending back to create a newsletter to get out to

our local businesses and prospective businesses. Director Johnson checked with Jonathan Belcher and said that we are able to do that with stipend funds.

Ray Blair said if we are able to do it, then do it.

Chad Hines made a motion to do a newsletter and assign Mark Long to take the lead. Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports & Recommendations of the Director

MECC SBDC-Seed Capital

Director Johnson stated that they are currently working with a couple of Lee County applicants one of which is John Meile who has applied for a Special Use Permit for a recreational vehicle park in the western end of the county off of Sand Cave Rd.

Director Johnson asked the Board Members to reach out to each of their Board of Supervisors to support John Meile's Special Use Permit request.

Produce Auction Update

Director Johnson stated that buyer and producer surveys are live, they have been pushed out to multiple entities and those links are also live on our website. He told the Board that if they knew anyone interested in taking that survey to direct them to the EDA website.

Chairman Edwards stated that VDOT was doing a survey from Sugar Run on Rt. 58 to Cecil St. in Pennington. He said Keith Harless is pushing the idea of a roundabout at the hospital, he said it has been promoted on VDOT's Facebook and suggested that each of the members fill it out and give them your thoughts.

EDA Training Session – TVA, Lenowisco

Director Johnson reminded the Board that TVA will be providing a training session Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 5:00-7:00 at 372 Technology Lane in Duffield, VA.

He said they are asking for RSVP by tomorrow, if you cannot RSVP by tomorrow you are still welcome to attend. Director Johnson encouraged the board members to attend.

Grand Opening – D&D Smoke Shack

Director Johnson stated that D&D Smoke Shack has scheduled a Grand Opening for March 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Session

Ray Blair made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Section 2.2-3711A.3 (Acquisition of Real Property), Section 2.2-3711A.4 (Protection of The Privacy of Individuals) and Section 2.2-3711A.5(Discussion of Prospective Business). A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chad Hines made a motion to come out of executive session. A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to approve the VCEDA loan modification agreement mentioned earlier. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Liz Myers made a motion to adjourn. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Development Secretary
Cathy Wilder
March 4, 2022

Community Development Director
Richard Johnson II
March 25, 2022