

Economic Development Authority  
Minutes  
August 4, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

The Lee County Economic Development Authority met in regular session Thursday, August 4, 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, Vice-Chairman Paul Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer Ray Blair, Board Members Mark Long, Chad Hines, A.J. Hatmaker and Richard Sprinkle Jr., Community Development Director Richard Johnson, Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder, Jan Brown, Melissa Hubbard Jack Kennedy, Donald Purdie and Rick Watson with Powell Valley News. EDA Attorney Rick Callahan 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 July 7, 2022 meeting.

Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder stated that she made a mistake on page 3 of the July 7, 2022 minutes regarding DHCD which needed to be corrected.

Mark Long made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2022 meeting with the correction being made. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

None

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

Mark Long made a motion to approve the financial report, bills & payments for the month of August. A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Community Roundtable-Chamber of Commerce**

Chairman Edwards stated that he announced the new Chamber of Commerce at the Friends of Wilderness Road annual picnic which was held at Wilderness Road State Park. He said that there was a very good response and that a lot of people are supporting the new chamber. Chairman Edwards said that he would coordinate with Director Johnson to set a date for an initial organizational meeting.

**Produce Auction Update (Final)**

Director Johnson provided the Authority with copies of the final version of the feasibility study and gave a brief report on the findings of the study.

### **County Budget Allocation**

Director Johnson stated that the county has provided a \$25,000.00 budget allocation to the Authority to which he has made an \$18,000.00 disbursement request to pay half of the invoice for the Produce Auction Feasibility Study and the invoice for VaCorp 2023 insurance.

### **New Business**

#### **Starlink Funding Opportunity**

Donald Purdie and Jack Kennedy were recognized by the Authority. Mr. Purdie gave a brief synopsis of the intent of the project and informed the Authority of the opportunity to submit a request for funding from VCEDA to subsidize the cost.

Chairman Edwards thanked the individuals for making the proposal, and said that any action would have to be taken by the Board of Supervisors to fund an initiative of its size.

#### **Updated Information Regarding Seed Capital**

Director Johnson provided a brief update on eligibility requirements for the Fall 2022 round of VCEDA's Seed Capital Matching Grant program. He stated that initial discussions were that only previous applicants who hadn't received an interview and been funded in the Spring round would be eligible but they have since opened it up to those applicants as well as new applicants that fall within the "targeted industry" categories as established by VCEDA.

#### **Whistle Pig EDF Request- Jan Brown and Melissa Hubbard**

Chairman Edwards stated that the Board would discuss in executive session.

#### **Reports & Recommendations of the Board**

Chairman Edwards stated that the Cookout at Wilderness Road Park was good.

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

##### **Potential AFID Grant Application**

Letter of support will probably be needed in the future, currently working with potential applicant.

##### **Golf Tournaments**

It was the consensus of the board to not participate in The Lane Group Golf Scramble or The Law Enforcement 4 Man Scramble.

##### **Executive Session**

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Section 2.2-3711A.6 Investing of Public Funds (Contracts). Paul Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Long 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.

Mark Long made a motion to request a transfer of \$25,000.00 from the EDF fund to the EDA to establish a grant for Whistle Pig Country Store. Paul Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Long made a motion to reschedule the September EDA meeting for September 8, 2022. A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to adjourn. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Development Secretary  
Cathy Wilder  
August 5, 2022

Community Development Director  
Richard Johnson II  
August 23, 2022