

Economic Development Authority
Minutes
March 2, 2023
6:00 p.m.

The Lee County Economic Development Authority met in regular session Thursday, March 2, 2023 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, Board Members A.J. Hatmaker, Chad Hines and Richard Sprinkle Jr., Community Development Director Richard Johnson, Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder and EDA Attorney Rick Callahan. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Blair and Board Member Mark Long were unable to attend the 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 February 2, 2023 meeting.

Richard Sprinkle made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2023 meeting. A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. Chad Hines abstained. The motion passed.

Public Comment

None

Approval of EDA Financial Report, Bills & Payments

Paul Johnson made a motion to approve the financial report and paying the bills for the month of March. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Whistle Pig EDF Request

Director Johnson provided the Authority an updated timeline for Whistle Pig Country Store with engineering expected to be complete within the next week and provided a brief report detailing an unexpected requirement for commercial entrances by VDOT.

Seed Capital Spring Round

Director Johnson reminded the Board that the deadline for new SBDC applicants for the spring round will be March 31, 2023.

Dryden Issues

Director Johnson stated that there is a letter included in the board packet from Lee County Building Official Clint Carter detailing inspection requirements and timelines for the fire suppression system in the England Furniture building.

New Business**VCEDA Extension**

Director Johnson informed the Authority that the VCEDA one-year disbursement extension request for England, Inc. was successful and now the disbursement deadline is March 8, 2024.

England Lease Expiration/Renewal

Director Johnson informed the Authority that he had received written notification from England Inc. for the first five-year lease extension option to be exercised pursuant to the terms of the original lease for England Furniture with an updated expiration of May 31, 2028. He also informed the Authority that England reserves this right for one additional five-year term beyond the 2028 expiration.

Budget

Director Johnson stated that he needs to get information turned into the County by March 10th regarding the budget for the EDA. It was the consensus of the Board to submit the same request that was submitted last year and for Director Johnson to request drawdown of the remaining budget amount from the current fiscal year.

Reports & Recommendations of the Board

Chairman Edwards told the Authority that he has seen the proposed plans for the ABC store that will be in Jonesville.

Reports & Recommendations of the Director**Google Drive**

Director Johnson informed the Authority that a google drive folder had been created to disperse information to them all, especially advantageous for larger file types not suitable for email.

Small Purchase Procedures

Director Johnson questioned the members of the Authority about their recollections of adopted small purchase procedures as allowed by the Virginia Procurement Act.

Chairman Edwards stated that he has not had a chance to check but he thinks he has a copy of the small purchase procedures for the EDA on his computer.

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to go into executive session to discuss 2.2-3711 A.3 Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property, 2.2-3711 A.5 Discussion of Prospective Business and 2.2-3711 A.6 Investing of Public Funds and 2.2-3711 A.7 Consultation with Legal Counsel. Paul Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chad Hines made a motion to come out of executive session. Richard Sprinkle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Paul Johnson made a motion to authorize Director Johnson to sign the master service agreement for engineering services with The Lane Group for the Dryden building. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to adjourn. Richard Sprinkle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Development Secretary
Cathy Wilder
March 8, 2023

Community Development Director
Richard Johnson
March 13, 2023