

Economic Development Authority  
Minutes  
May 4, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

The Lee County Economic Development Authority met in regular session Thursday, May 4, 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, Secretary/Treasurer Ray Blair, Board Members A.J. Hatmaker, Chad Hines, Richard Sprinkle Jr., Mark Long, Community Development Director Richard Johnson, Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder, EDA Attorney Rick Callahan and Rick Watson with Powell Valley News.

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 April 6, 2023 meeting.

Mark Long made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2023 meeting. Richard Sprinkle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Public Comment**

None

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

Chad Hines made a motion to approve the financial report and paying the bills for the month of May. A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Whistle Pig Update**

Director Johnson stated that he has spoken with Jan Brown & Melissa Hubbard, they are still waiting for the final engineering plans for the building and they are ready to break ground and begin site work as early as next week. Director Johnson also stated that the loan agreement will be executed as soon as tomorrow.

**Dryden Building Maintenance**

Director Johnson gave a brief update regarding the Dryden building. He said that England had sent a safety officer to do an inspection of the building and upon inspection of the building they requested a meeting with the Building Official and himself. Director Johnson said there is a letter referencing that meeting in the board packets. He stated that there were open boxes with exposed wires.

Ray Blair asked Director Johnson what he knew about the HVAC work that had been done at the Dryden building. He said that we had hired someone to do some work to the HVAC, they done the work, then England officials would not allow the work to be performed properly and potentially altered the equipment.

Director Johnson said that he thought what Ray Blair was referencing was back in the original renovation of the building, which was in 2018.

Chairman Edwards stated that it would be a good idea to go through the building and video and take pictures of everything.

### **Budget Disbursement**

Director Johnson stated that the disbursement request was ultimately denied by the Board of Supervisors. He said that the position of the County was that the funds were only on an as needed basis. He said that it was also mentioned that the so-called windfall that the Authority recently came into was a determining factor and the Board of Supervisors feel that there was no need to disburse the funds.

Chairman Edwards stated that the position could be taken that the Board of Supervisors does not support the efforts of the Authority to broaden economic development within the County.

### **Waste Wood Discussion**

Director Johnson continued discussions of the ongoing waste wood market collapse in the area and requested permission to pursue an AFID planning grant in partnership with Scott County to aid in the exploration of feasibility to create new markets in the region with an existing business.

Ray Blair made a motion to allow Director Johnson to pursue. Mark Long seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **AFID Planning & Infrastructure Grants**

Director Johnson indicated that he had just discussed the planning component and would take up the infrastructure project in closed session.

#### **VACORP Renewal**

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to accept the VaCorp Insurance renewal for the amount of \$4,698.00. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Board Appointment/Re-Appointment**

Director Johnson stated that Mark Long has been reappointed to the Authority and his term will expire April 30, 2027.

### **Graduation Ad**

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to approve payment of \$126.00 to Powell Valley News for the 2023 Graduation Ad. Rick Sprinkle, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

None

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

#### **SWVA Economic Forum**

Director Johnson reminded the Board that the SWVA Economic Forum will be held May 25, 2023.

#### **Forest Service Collaboration**

Director Johnson informed the Authority that he had been in contact with senior officials with the USDA and have planned a meeting to determine if there were avenues for the Authority and/or County to partner and ensure that Keokee lake and Cave Springs are utilized to their fullest potential.

Director Johnson informed the Board that he will not be able to attend the June 1, 2023 meeting because he will be out of town for a TVA community jumpstart initiative. He asked the Board if they wanted to reschedule the June meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to reschedule the June meeting for June 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Edwards stated that Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder has been doing last minute work the day of the EDA meeting to get everything included on the financial report. Chairman Edwards said that all of the other boards that he works with do the financials for the month before. He asked the Board if they would be okay with doing that. It was the consensus of the Board to allow Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder to get board approval for any invoices received after the financial report has been completed and to then include those invoices on the next month's financial report.

Ray Blair made a motion to go into executive session to discuss 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. A.J. Hatmaker 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.

A.J. Hatmaker made a motion to adjourn. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Development Secretary  
Cathy Wilder  
May 5, 2023

Community Development Director  
Richard Johnson II  
June 6, 2023