

Economic Development Authority of Patrick County

Meeting of August 20, 2009

Present: Glenn Roycroft, Chairman; Gail Harding, Vice Chairperson; Dale Puckett, Terry Dalton, Secretary; Twyla Neil and Felecia Shelor

Also Present: Tom Rose, Economic Development Director; Wilma Pendleton, Administrative Assistant; Karl Weiss, Crystal Harris, BOS Chairperson, Gerald (Jerry) Hughes, Patrick County Education Foundation, Lisa Martin, Chamber Representative, Stephen Walker, WHEO Radio, and Alan Black

Absent: Ron Haley, and Town Representative

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Patrick County was held on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Second Floor conference room of the Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Building.

Mr. Roycroft called the meeting to order. The agenda was presented for approval. On motion by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Puckett and carried with additions the board approved the agenda.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, Terry Dalton, Twyla Neil and Felecia Shelor

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

The minutes of July 16, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. On motion by Ms. Harding, seconded by Ms. Shelor and carried, the board approved the minutes.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, and Felecia Shelor

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: Twyla Neil, and Terry Dalton

FINANCE REPORT (BILLS):

Mr. Rose presented the EDA finance reports for monthly billings. (Finance report is available). On motion by Mr. Dalton seconded by Ms. Harding and carried the board approved to pay the bills.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, Terry Dalton, Twyla Neil and Felecia Shelor

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

OFFICE UPDATES:

Patrick Springs Water & Sewer Project

Mr. Rose along with Mr. Alan Black, County Attorney presented the agreement and the resolution between the EDA and the PSA stating that the Economic Development Authority would make up the estimated, anticipated shortfall of \$216,000.00 to the Public Service Authority in order for the PSA to make installments to USDA/Rural Development for the Patrick Springs Water and Sewer project (copy available). On motion by Ms. Harding seconded by Ms. Neil and carried the board approved the agreement and the resolution.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, Terry Dalton, Twyla Neil and Felecia Shelor
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

Crystal Harris, Chairperson for the Board of Supervisors

Mr. Rose introduced Ms. Harris who commended the EDA board for everything that they are doing. She stated that they were an asset to the County and did not want to deface (blemish or damage) the County in any way. She stated that Patrick County needs economic development and tourism. She thanked the board. The members of the board thanked Ms. Harris for being there and supporting them.

Patrick County Education Foundation

Mr. Rose introduced Mr. Hughes to the board. Mr. Hughes is the director of the PCEF of which Mr. Rose and Mr. Roycroft are both board members. Mr. Hughes handed out a presentation (available) concerning the PCEF. The PCEF has three main programs, college access, GED promotion, and workforce training. Patrick County is among the top five rural Virginia counties in the number of high school graduates that attend college which has been made available through the foundation with 187 LDA scholarships awarded. The GED program has doubled its goal for graduates since 2002. The seven year goal for workforce training was to reach 1,500 adults and to date they have trained 1,408 adults, with a 97 percent completion rate in the program.

The PCEF was funded by outside sources for many years, but now it is expected to be sustained locally by the community. However, the economic downturn has made it tougher to receive local funding. Mr. Roycroft informed the board that it was a very important program for the county and that it should be continued, but it would require local support. Mr. Hughes informed the board that they constantly have to do fundraising in order to support the foundation. Mr. Weiss asked if the county funded the foundation and Mr. Hughes stated that at one time the county let them run their payroll through the county which saved them \$30,000, but the county does not fund the foundation. The board thanked Mr. Hughes for coming and Mr. Hughes thanked the board for the invitation.

New Verizon Store

Mr. Dalton informed the board that he would be opening a new Verizon store beside Tony's Pizza in Downtown Stuart. He also informed that board that Verizon would be erecting a new tower.

Claudville Computer Center

Mr. Rose informed the board that the Claudville Computer Center opening was a big success with Congressman Boucher in attendance. The computer center was supported mainly by the TDF foundation from Washington, D.C.; however, there had been several volunteer hours as well as community funding such as \$1,000 donation from the EDA and computer chairs, the Patrick Henry Community College donated the computer desks, Jimmy Lankford did the wiring, three youth from the ARRA grant did an excellent job painting the lab and the Ruritans donated the building.

Mayo River Rail Trail and Jack's Creek Covered Bridge

Mr. Rose informed the board that the county was waiting on the signature from the Virginia Department of Transportation and they could begin the preliminary engineering process on the trail and send out an RFP for the bridge preservation.

Terms of Members

Mr. Rose informed the board that Mr. Terry Dalton and Mr. Dale Puckett would be on the consent agenda for the Board of Supervisors to reaffirm them for another four year term to serve on the EDA board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Lisa Martin suggested that the board hire Cian Robinson to do a strategic plan for the EDA. A strategic plan would show what projects are needed by the county. Mr. Rose informed them that Joan Hullett of the West Piedmont Planning District would be invited to one of the meetings in the next few months to talk about what the ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) could offer Patrick County. Ms. Martin also suggested getting Whitney Bonham from Virginia Tech to come before the board and speak to find out what ideas they could offer.

The board had discussion and decided to brainstorm what grants might be needed or a list of projects to give to a grant writer. A list of these projects for possible grants might include: transfer station, Mayo River Rail Trail, Bob White Covered Bridge preservation, restoration of the Patrick County Court House, jail, schools, water and sewer, etc. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present for the public comment period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion by Ms. Neil and seconded by Mr. Dalton and carried unanimously; the meeting was called into Executive Session under the appropriate codes of Virginia to discuss legal matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; prospective business matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(5), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; real estate [Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; and personnel matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended].

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, Terry Dalton, Twyla Neil and Felecia Shelor

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

On motion by Ms. Harding and seconded by Mr. Dalton and carried unanimously; the meeting was reconvened by the appropriate codes. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous vote that only the items listed above were discussed during Executive Session.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, Terry Dalton, Twyla Neil and Felecia Shelor

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

After the board reconvened from executive session they discussed the Governors Opportunity Fund (GOF) of \$100,000 that was offered to Ten Oaks in 2005. On motion by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Ms. Neil and carried 4-2 and approved that the board agrees the performance agreement in 2005 with Ten Oaks for the \$5,950,000.00 in investments and the creation of 150 jobs was met and the GOF fund of \$100,000 will be distributed to Ten Oaks and the traditional Patrick County Business Grant incentive match will be extended. It is the Patrick County Business grant that was allocated in 2005.

Voting Aye: Gail Harding, Glenn Roycroft, Terry Dalton, and Twyla Neil

Voting Nay: Dale Puckett, and Felecia Shelor

Abstaining: N/A

Being no further business to discuss, on motion by Mr. Dalton seconded by Ms. Neil and carried; the meeting was adjourned.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, Terry Dalton, Twyla Neil and Felecia Shelor

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Chairperson

Date

NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2009