

Economic Development Authority of Patrick County

Meeting of December 15, 2008

Present: Glenn Roycroft, Chairman; Gail Harding, Vice Chairperson; Felecia Shelor, Twyla Neil, Dale Puckett and Ron Haley

Also Present: Tom Rose, Economic Development Director; Wilma Pendleton, Administrative Assistant; Leslie Shelor, Nancy Lindsey, Karl Weiss, Jim McHone and Stephen Walker

Absent: Terry Dalton, Secretary

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Patrick County was held on Monday, December 15, 2008, 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 with one change. On motion by Ms. Harding, seconded by Ms. Felecia Shelor and carried the board approved the agenda.

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

OATH TAKEN BY RON HALEY

At this time, Ms. Susan Gasperini, Clerk of Court came forth for the swearing in of Mr. Ronald (Ron) Haley. Mr. Haley took the oath of office for the Economic Development Authority. The board thanked Ms. Gasperini for her time. Introductions were made to Mr. Haley, and the Board welcomed him.

The minutes of November 17, 2008 meeting were presented for approval. On motion by Ms. Gail Harding, seconded by Ms. Neil and carried the board approved the minutes.

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

FINANCE REPORT (BILLS):

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

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

and Twyla Neil
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

OFFICE UPDATES:

Incubator Center

Mr. Rose informed the Board that there was a company in Stuart with extra space and they were willing to consolidate that space into an incubator center and rent out the space to new small businesses. Ms. Tiffani Underwood, Executive Director of West Piedmont Business Development Center met with Tom Rose and the owner and toured the facility.

VDOT Punch List

Mr. Rose informed the Board that the maintenance crew had completed all the work that was possible for them to handle at RCCP from the VDOT punch list and that a bid would be sent out to fix the rest of the problems which will deal with the main ditch line. He estimated that approximately 75% of the items on the list have been completed by the county maintenance department. They would also need to obtain a water analysis from Adams Heath Engineering.

Primland

Mr. Rose informed the Board that the lodge at Primland should be finished the first part of the upcoming year which would bring new jobs into the area, and they would be working closely with Patrick Henry Community College and Virginia Tech for the training that would be necessary.

Enterprise Zone

Mr. Rose informed the Board that he and Ms. Pendleton had attended a free workshop concerning the Enterprise Zone and that very valuable information had been obtained especially concerning cycle pay back and important deadline dates.

Mr. Rose updated the board concerning the enterprise zone application which was returned because they wanted more information as to why we had reached specific sites in the Claudville and Meadows of Dan area. The Richmond office had some questions concerning the acreage. New public hearings were set for the county as well as the town of Stuart, and a new application would have to be sent in. The county had their meeting on December 8, 2008 and the town will meet on December 17, 2008 for their public hearing. The new revised application will be sent in December 19, 2008.

Broadband

Mr. Rose informed the board that he and Jim Ingram had filled out and sent in an application for more funding for the physical build-out. He stated that it would cover 70% of the populace of Patrick County, including the 57 corridor, Claudville, and other areas that are deprived of service. Trificient is doing the study, but an RFP will be sent out for bid and then a company will be selected to do the work.

Mr. Puckett stated that some thought needed to be considered concerning the County owning the equipment versus the broadband company owning it since the equipment is so easily outdated where technology is concerned. He also stated that there were more companies out there now that have the same capabilities as Trificient and they should not be overlooked.

Ms. Neil stated that she was not impressed with Hughes net because it was not much faster than her dial-up connection.

Mr. Rose stated that in order for the study to be successful they had to have 750 kbs connection.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Aerial

The ribbon cutting was held at the new plant site in Ararat and a nice write up was put in the paper. More jobs for Patrick County are being anticipated with the new satellite site in Ararat.

VA Transformer

Mr. Rose informed the Board that there were good quality applicants from the ad that was in the Enterprise for jobs with VA Transformer out of Roanoke. He also informed that Board that he would be having another meeting with them.

Entrepreneur Express

Ms. Pendleton gave an update on the progress that was being made from the Entrepreneur Express that was held at the PHCC, PC Site on November 12. She informed the Board that there was success with the first one-on-one session with Sandy Ratliff of the Virginia Department of Business Assistance and that she was booked up with local businesses for the sessions that would be held on December 18, 2008. Another session is also scheduled for January 22, and an ad will be run in the local Enterprise and the new flyer advertising for January 22 will be added to the homepage.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present for the public comment period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion by Mr. Dale Puckett and seconded by Mr. Ron Haley 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].

On motion by Ms. Harding and seconded by Ms. Neil 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.

Since the next scheduled meeting would be on January 19, 2009 which is Martin Luther King's birthday, the members agreed on Thursday, January 22, 2009 for the first meeting of the New Year.

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

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Felecia Shelor, Dale Puckett, Twyla Neil
and Ron Haley

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Chairperson

Date

NEXT MEETING: January 22, 2009