

Economic Development Authority of Patrick County

Meeting of February 19, 2009

Present: Glenn Roycroft, Chairman; Gail Harding, Vice Chairperson; Terry Dalton, Secretary; Dale Puckett and Ron Haley

Also Present: Tom Rose, Economic Development Director; Nancy Lindsey, Karl Weiss, Danny Wood, Dr. Karen Wood, and Stephen Walker

Absent: Wilma Pendleton, Administrative Assistant, Felecia Shelor, Leslie Shelor, Twyla Neil, and Jim McHone/Terry Tilley, Town Representatives

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Patrick County was held on Thursday, February 19, 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 Ms. Harding and carried the board approved the agenda.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, Ron Haley, and Terry Dalton
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

The minutes of January 22, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. On motion by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Haley and carried with change noted, the board approved the minutes.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Ron Haley, Dale Puckett, and Terry Dalton
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: Gail Harding

FINANCE REPORT (BILLS):

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

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Terry Dalton, Dale Puckett, Ron Haley and Gail Harding.
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

OFFICE UPDATES:

Primland

Mr. Rose informed the Board that there were about 100 people enrolled in the first Customer Service training class for Primland that was held on February 13, 2009.

Broadband

Mr. Rose informed the board that the Broadband study was complete. He is meeting with Mr. Jim Ingram on Wednesday, February 26 to discuss some areas of concern. Mr. Rose has received written permission for the two towers to be used to complete the study which will indicate where they can send the signal. Mr. Roycroft made comment that he now has DSL from Embarq. Mr. Puckett commented that they had also added another cable and added about 3000 feet in his area over the 3 miles they were already going.

Mr. Rose stated that he thought more of the DSL connections would be seen in the area. He informed the board of the Mid-Atlantic BroadBand Cooperative meeting that he attended on Tuesday which was a good indicator with the stimulus package that would probably push Southside Virginia to more broadband coverage. The stimulus package was in the billions; however, Mr. Rose did not have the exact amount. Ms. Harding stated that Congressman Boucher had announced it and Nancy had already written an article in the Wednesday paper concerning the meeting.

VA Transformer

Mr. Rose informed the Board that VA Transformer out of Roanoke was doing very well. He informed the board that they had already started the training and it was going very positive with the jobs that were created.

OTHER BUSINESS:

SBTC

Mr. Rose informed the board that he would be at Virginia Tech on Thursday, February 25, 2009 and Friday, February 26, 2009 with the SBTC, Small Business Technology Commission. Two projects have been narrowed down and they are going up to Tech to meet with the Federal EDA directors from Philadelphia, PA. Broadband is one of the topics that will be discussed.

EMPLOYER'S BREAKFAST

Mr. Rose informed the board that there would be an employer's breakfast in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field on Monday, February 23 at 7:00 AM. Mr. Goad, the HR Director from Virginia Transformer will be doing a presentation at that time.

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Mr. Rose stated that he had mentioned SBA on several occasions and how much Richard "Dick" Ephgrave from Longwood University had been such an asset for the county. He proceeded to pass out a handout with figures to show the extent of their success. The figures were very impressive. Ms. Harding informed the board that Mr. Jerry Hughes of the Patrick County Education Foundation was the one who got the program started several years ago.

CONTACT INFORMATION and MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Rose handed out the updated contact information for each of the members.

Mr. Roycroft made comment that some of the members had expressed interest in having the meetings on the third Thursday instead of on Monday. Discussion was made and the

members who were present did not have a problem with Thursday. However, Ms. Harding said it should be brought up at the next meeting because they need to find out if it would be a conflict for Felecia Shelor and Twyla Neil. Mr. Rose stated that he would find out from them as well as Leslie Shelor if the third Thursday would be convenient for them.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Rose opened the floor for the public comment period. Mr. Danny Wood was concerned that the county had paid Aerial to stay in Virginia as opposed to going to NC. Mr. Rose informed everyone that Mr. Marcaccio from Aerial had decided to stay before the company was ever presented with a check. It was not county money that was being used; it was money from the Tobacco Regional Opportunity Fund. Ms. Harding commented that Mr. Rose and Mr. Marcaccio had a good working relationship, but that the county did not give up any local funds.

Mr. Rose made mention that there were several people from Carolina who worked at the plant in Virginia, and he would be pleased if Mt. Airy made an announcement of a plant opening because there would be people from Patrick County working there. When there is a lay off in Martinsville, it is a ripple effect in Patrick County because about 25% of the Patrick County workforce works in Henry County. Therefore, when there is a regional announcement to that extent, he is delighted.

Mr. Wood made comment about the HBI plant in Eden, Carolina closing and of the 700 that were laid off 400 was from Virginia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion by Mr. Dalton and seconded by Mr. Puckett 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 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.

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

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Terry Dalton, Dale Puckett, Gail Harding and Ron Haley
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

Chairperson

Date

NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2009