

Economic Development Authority of Patrick County

Meeting of January 14, 2008

Present: Glenn Roycroft, Chairperson; Gail Harding, Vice Chairperson; Terry Dalton; Felecia Shelor; Dale Puckett; Steve Swartz; Noel Wood; and Jimmy McHone

Also Present: Tom Rose, Economic Development Director; Wilma Pendleton, Administrative Assistant; Jim Ingram, Trificient Technologies and Jamie Clark, WHEO

Absent: Carolyn Beale

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Patrick County was held on Monday, January 14, 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. On motion by Mr. Swartz, seconded by Mr. Puckett and carried the board approved the agenda as presented.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Felecia Shelor, Gail Harding, Terry Dalton, Dale Puckett, Noel Wood, and Steve Swartz

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

The minutes of December 3, 2007 regular meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Harding made motion and was seconded by Mr. Dalton to approve the minutes as presented. One error was presented and an amendment was requested by Noel Wood for the February 18, 2008 meeting. The correction to the December 3, 2007 minutes, to exclude Steve Swartz from the votes in the December meeting because he was absent, has been made.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Gail Harding, Terry Dalton, Felecia Shelor, Noel Wood

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: Steve Swartz

FINANCE REPORT (BILLS):

Mr. Rose introduced Ms. Wilma Pendleton as the new administrative assistant for EDA.

Mr. Rose presented the EDA finance reports for December billings. (Please see attached copy). Mr. Rose stated the he had double checked the bids from Bassett Office Supply and they were correct. Ms. Harding made motion and was seconded by Mr. Swartz to pay the bills.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Felecia Shelor, Gail Harding, Terry Dalton, Dale Puckett, and Steve Swartz

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: Noel Wood

TRIFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. Rose interrupted the current agenda to introduce Mr. Jim Ingram of Trificient Technologies. Mr. Puckett asked Mr. Ingram to give a presentation on high speed wireless internet.

Mr. Ingram gave a brief overview of the company including its beginning in October of 2001 in Mt. Airy, North Carolina. More technological systems and services have been added since that time to meet the expanding needs of customers. It covers Mt. Airy, Surry and into Virginia, with Mr. Puckett being one of their customers in the Ararat area. They currently serve approximately 350 customers. They are also building out high speed wireless to include Grayson and Carroll Counties and the city of Galax by a group called RIFA, Regional Industrial Facilities Authority. They also signed an agreement to build out Bland County. They will also be meeting with the Eastern band of Cherokee Nation in N.C. on the reservation.

Mr. Ingram gave a slide presentation consisting of some of Trificient's services including Network Services from servers to security to help their customers define their needs and provide the support to make it happen; Mobile High Speed Networks designed specifically for police, fire and EMT departments; Video Surveillance to monitor sites with wireless connectivity, which would not normally be seen by the human eye; and Voice Over IP helping their customers install and maintain phone and data systems which take advantage of communications using Internet Protocol standards.

According to Mr. Ingram, Trificient delivers high speed Internet connectivity without wires with speeds from 1 mbps (megabyte per second) to 45 mbps. They provide hassle-free support. They are flexible in that they deliver scalable, on demand bandwidth that grows with the needs or pace of a company. They use proprietary encoding, polling and modulation techniques to prevent any unauthorized access for security purposes.

When asked if there were any complaints about losing signal, Mr. Ingram stated that their biggest problem came from the terrain and trees. The ownership of equipment is different in each area. When asked about the cost Mr. Ingram stated that the price would depend on the coverage, the number of people, and other information concerning the infrastructure. This information would need to be provided in order to give a cost estimate. Some of this information would include defining the area, site surveys, topographical studies, other communication systems, terrains to get over, line of sight, and existing structures. However, the cost for Mr. Puckett's hookup was a \$99 one time fee and \$50 a month with approximately 100 kbps which could increase to 5 mbps download with slower upload speed using their new equipment, which would make it faster than DSL.

Some members of the board agreed that there were other services available in the area, but it would be good to offer something to those who are non-served or underserved and it would also give those with services already other options to choose from.

Mr. Ingram will be making a presentation on the potential project to the board of supervisors in a future meeting.

OFFICE UPDATES:

MINUTES OF MEETING

Mr. Rose reported that the minutes for the EDA meetings were going to be changed to reflect the format based upon the FOIA handbook which consists of: date, time and location of meeting; members of the public body who are present and absent; a record of any votes taken and the change to be made would be a *summary* of the discussion on each matter proposed, discussed, or decided instead of paraphrasing what everyone said. The Board of Supervisors adopted this format.

ENTREPRISE ZONE MAPPING

Mr. Rose reported that the Enterprise Zoning in Meadows of Dan was moving forward and he met with Joan Hullett from the Planning Commission who had some really good advice.

WENDY'S

Mr. Rose reported that there would be an official ground breaking ceremony for the new Wendy's restaurant on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 and inquired as to who would be attending.

PSA UPDATE

Mr. Rose reported that Mr. Craig Teller is going to activate the PSA again with meetings on Wednesday night.

DATE OF MEETINGS

Mr. Rose suggested that the board change their meetings from the 1st Monday to the 3rd Monday of each month beginning in February, so that it would not interfere with the BOS meetings. Ms. Harding suggested called meetings to be held on the 1st Monday. The board agreed on this day and the time to be left at 7:00 P.M.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE

Mr. Swartz gave an update on the Blue Ridge Heritage. Blue Ridge Heritage is looking at statements of interest from two tourism consulting firms that would do a marketing analysis. Both firms have been interviewed. It is an unusual team made up of Virginia Tech and Clemson professors and they are negotiating with them. It is a two year study to analyze what the traveling public is willing to spend their money on.

PATRICK SPRINGS SEWER AND WATER PROJECT

Ms. Harding reported that a public hearing would be held on February 11, 2008 at the 6:00 P.M. Board of Supervisor's meeting concerning the Patrick Springs water and sewer project. She suggested that the EDA members need to be present at the meeting to support the project. The board had a discussion about the project and most members agreed that if they dropped the ball on this grant that it would be very difficult in the future to receive more grants from Rural Development. Some of them also agreed that without sewer and water in the Patrick Springs area that hotels, manufacturers, etc. would not come to the area. Some board members have also received comments from citizens who owned trailer parks in the Patrick Springs area that could not use their washers and dryers when it rained unless their septic tanks were pumped out with a cost of approximately \$150 each time, and in some area churches the water was not even fit to drink. Some citizens that live in a new housing development in Patrick Springs were concerned that their water table is endangered due to the increased drilling of wells. One of the Patrick Springs restaurants is already pumping and hauling sewage to the Stuart waste water treatment plant twice a week. Some members of the board were concerned about future health problems and economic development if this project did not go forth. The average monthly cost per household in the town of Stuart for water and sewer is approximately \$35.

It was suggested that if the county did not want to continue with the project to turn the funds over to the town. However, the town had the grant before, but once the annexation was discussed the county decided it would rather be in control of the water outside town, so the

grant was given back to the county and the PSA. Grants have done considerable good for the town and it is frowned upon if a grant is bypassed. The total cost of the project which has been in the planning for more than eight years was approximately \$5.2 million. And although there is a grant through Rural Development, the county would have to take out an interest bearing loan of over \$2 million. Although customers would be paying a utility bill for their sewer and water, which would help pay for the loan there would still be a certain number of dollars that the county would have to subsidize for a certain number of years in the future. Mr. Puckett was concerned with this short-fall of approximately \$100,000 a year over a 5-10 year period and did not find it feasible to vote for the project.

On motion by Mr. Swartz, seconded by Mr. Dalton and carried 6-1 the EDA agreed to pass a resolution in support of the Patrick Springs water and sewer project. The EDA resolution would recommend that the Board of Supervisors vote to proceed with the project to support economic development and resources along the Patrick Springs and Critz corridor.

Voting Aye: Steve Swartz, Glenn Roycroft, Noel Wood, Jim McHone, Gail Harding, Felecia Shelor, and Terry Dalton

Voting Nay: Dale Puckett

Abstaining: N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion by Mr. Swartz and seconded by Mr. Wood and carried, 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]; and personnel matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]. On motion by Mrs. Harding and seconded by Mr. Swartz, 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. Swartz, and carried the meeting was adjourned.

Voting Aye: Glenn Roycroft, Felecia Shelor, Gail Harding, Terry Dalton, Dale Puckett, Noel Wood, Jimmy McHone, and Steve Swartz

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Chairperson

Date

NEXT MEETING: February 18, 2008