

Economic Development Authority of Patrick County

Meeting of July 16, 2009

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

Also Present: Tom Rose, Economic Development Director; Wilma Pendleton, Administrative Assistant; Karl Weiss, Cian Robinson, Robinson Ventures, Lisa Martin, Chamber Representative, Stephen Walker, WHEO Radio, and Nancy Lindsey, The Enterprise

Absent: Ron Haley, Terry Dalton, Secretary; Twyla Neil, and Town Representative

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Patrick County was held on Thursday, April 16, 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 Ms. Harding, seconded by Mr. Puckett and carried the board approved the agenda.

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

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

The minutes of May 21, 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: N/A

The minutes of June 4, 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,

Voting Nay: N/A

Abstaining: Felecia Shelor

The minutes of June 24, 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: N/A

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, Gail Harding, Dale Puckett, and Felecia Shelor
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

The board discussed making sure there was a yearly check-up and maintenance done on the HVAC units at Results because of the continuing repairs. Ms. Harding also asked for clarification concerning the broadband study that was completed by Trificient Technologies. Mr. Rose informed the board that the study was paid for with an eighty/twenty matching grant from the Tobacco Commission and the twenty percent match was paid for by the EDA, which had been voted on in the April 2009 EDA meeting. Part of the study included marking towers that could be used for broadband service and shooting the signals to find out what areas in the county might be covered.

OFFICE UPDATES:

Robinson Ventures

Mr. Rose introduced Mr. Cian Robinson, of Robinson Ventures, to the board. Mr. Robinson is a grant writing instructor for Patrick Henry Community College.

Mr. Robinson thanked the board for the opportunity to speak to them concerning grants. He informed the board that grant writing is a very competitive business. He informed them that the AARA grants were an opportunity for communities to receive matching reimbursable financing for several projects, and that we as taxpayers would all be paying for it whether we as a county took advantage of it or not. He informed the board that there was also annual grant money and private sector money. He informed the board that there were several hundreds of active competitive grants available that the county might be missing out on simply because they did not know they were available.

Mr. Robinson has already been asked by other states to put together broadband grant applications for BTOP and one in Virginia. He informed the board that those projects that were shovel ready would go quickly. Mr. Robinson spoke of several grants from USDA, the department of Justice, education grants, endowment of the arts grants, energy efficiency grants, broadband grants and even rural law enforcement grants. It is wise to note that most of these grants require matches and that they are reimbursable grants and loans. This money is not just handed over before any work is completed. The projects are paid for by the county first and must pay the twenty percent or more match for the approved project.

Mr. Robinson informed the board that he is working with Pioneer Hospital and the Caring Hearts Free Clinic to find out if they are interested in partnering with the hospital for the free clinic. He has also worked with the Reynolds Homestead in completing their strategic plan.

He informed the board that most counties have at least one full time grant writer who not only writes but manages the grants once they are awarded. When asked about being retained as a grant writer, he informed the board that he would work by the hour, by the project, or by a monthly retainer. He informed them that he normally received a 10-1 fold return, an example would be \$10,000 for him to apply for ½ million in grants. He informed them that he would need

to see the grant before he could tell them how many hours it would take to prepare it. Some of the broadband grant applications were taking anywhere from 100-300 hours to prepare. Mr. Robinson does not manage the grants once they have been awarded. The projects must be sustainable and have staff manageability.

Mr. Rose recommended downloading a list of the grant projects that were available and then deciding which ones might be applicable and feasible for the county. The board liked the idea of Mr. Rose putting together a projects list and then talking with Mr. Robinson concerning what grants might be available and helpful to the county.

Mr. Robinson will also give a presentation before the Patrick County Board of Supervisors to make them aware of the importance and availability of grant writing and grant writers, the grants available and an estimated cost of grant writing.

Chamber Liaison

Mr. Rose introduced Ms. Lisa Martin of Reynolds Homestead as the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce liaison. She would be taking Ms. Leslie Shelor's place because she resigned.

On motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Puckett and carried unanimously, the board invited Ms. Martin to join as Chamber liaison. Ms. Martin is also the Virginia Tech liaison for the Chamber.

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

Ms. Martin thanked the board and let them know that economic development was one of the projects that they were interested in at the Reynolds Homestead which included having teacher recertification classes taught at the Homestead. They are also interested in telling the story of R.J. Reynolds.

New General Manager for Results

Mr. Rose informed the board that Mr. Eric Hill was the new general manager for Results. He also informed them that Results would be replacing the carpet that has been destroyed, and perhaps tracks being placed in the aisle.

TDF Foundation

Mr. Rose informed the board that Linda Nickell from the TDF Foundation out of Washington, DC, was involved in getting the computer lab for the Red Bank Community Center. The county will be hiring the youth through the ARRA youth program to do the painting and cleaning for the computer lab. Chris from Parkway PC will be hired by the TDF Foundation as their IT person. An ad will be placed in the Enterprise for a twenty hour a week computer coordinator for the lab which will be paid for by the TDF Foundation. Mr. Rose will conduct the interviews for the position.

Spectrum Bridge

Mr. Rose informed the board that Phillip Hill from Spectrum Bridge in Florida would be conducting a trial study at the Red Bank Computer Lab using the analog white space spectrum

that was no longer used by TV channels since they had been converted to digital. They chose Patrick County because of the rural areas and especially Claudville because it is difficult to get a point to point connection in that area. If the white space spectrum is successful it would give the redundancy that is needed at the industrial parks and hopefully a less expensive wireless operation for internet connection. They will provide the hardware and the software for the trial study. They have asked that there not be any PR with this study until after they find out if it will work feasibly and financially.

Mayo River Rail Trail

Mr. Rose informed the board that the county had received bids from fifteen engineering firms and had narrowed it down to four firms for interviews. Anderson and Associates received the highest score and were chosen to present a cost proposal. Once the cost proposal has been received and signed by the county administrator, it would then be sent to VDOT for their pre-award audit.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present for the public comment period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion by Ms. Shelor 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].

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

On motion by Ms. Harding and seconded by Ms. Shelor 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, and Felecia Shelor
Voting Nay: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

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

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

Chairperson

Date

NEXT MEETING: August 20, 2009