

Patrick County Planning Commission Meeting

Minutes of September 15, 2020

Present: Sandra Belcher, Richard Hazelwood; members of the Planning Commission

Also Present: Teresa McCormick, Clerk; Bryce Simmons, Economic Development Director.

Also via Zoom: Mike Helms, Chairman and Owen Caldwell

Absent: Larry Smith and Denise Stirewalt

Mike Helms, Chairman called the meeting order.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

A motion was made by Richard Hazelwood to approve the Agenda as presented; seconded by Owen Caldwell and carried unanimously by all voting members present.

A motion was made by Sandra Belcher to approve the July 21, 2020 minutes as presented; seconded by Mike Helms and carried unanimously by all voting members present.

Bryce Simmons discussed the “wish list projects” for Patrick County. Bryce Simmons stated anything pertaining federal funding if it’s not in the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) will not be considered at the federal level.

Richard Hazlewood ask about funding grants to use for priority projects. Bryce Simmons stated the CEDS list is prepared by (WPPD) West Piedmont Planning District, they update the list every year for our priority projects.

Planning Commission members present reviewed the 1998 Comprehensive Plan, noted majority of the plan will not have but very little update or changes.

Public Service Authority (PSA) –Patrick Springs water and sewer addition to be added in comprehensive plan.

Sandra Belcher, will update the Tourism and Recreation part of the comprehensive plan.

Bryce Simmons will update the Economic Development part of the comprehensive plan.

Bryce Simmons stated maybe VTech will be able to help to retrieve information in the county districts as to what the citizens are interested in taking place in their area.

Will ask West Piedmont Planning regarding information on Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue.

Sandra Belcher will get in touch with Nancy Bell, Operation Manager with Health Department for information on Emergency Health Care and paid services.

Richard Hazlewood stated working in real estate, he has seen all ages buying property in the County.

Bryce Simmons stated with Broadband we are waiting on permission with State Department of General Services for permission to use a tower on Bull Mountain.

Bryce Simmons stated with Rural Digital Opportunity fund of \$20, 0000.00 potential funds, from Federal Communication Commission. River Street partners with Patrick County have indicated they will be applying for funding. If the County is awarded with funds fiber optic will go all over the County.

Mike Helms stated we need to state Patrick County aggressive with up to date communications working with Comcast as well as Broadband.

Mike Helms ask to Teresa McCormick to get in touch with Sarah Wray in regards to asking for help with the Planning Commission to establish by-laws, asset mapping and 5 year Executive/Strategic Plan.

Adjourn:

Sandra Belcher made a motion to close the meeting; seconded by Richard Hazelwood and carried unanimously by all voting members present.

The next Planning Commission meeting has been set for October 20, 2020.

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Mike Helms, Chairman