

March 11, 2019

**MEETING OF THE POWHATAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD IN THE POWHATAN VILLAGE BUILDING FIRE AND RESCUE CONFERENCE
ROOM, 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MARCH
11, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

EDA Members Present: Sen. John Watkins, Chairman
Dan Jones, Vice-Chairman
Tim Benusa, Treasurer
Andrea Weber
Russ Holland, Jr

Staff Members Present: Bret Schardein, Assistant County Administrator
Roxanne Salerno, Economic Development Program
Manager

Absent: Matt Schiefer
Bob Gibson

A. Call to Order

Sen. Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and noted that all members were present with the exception of Matt Schiefer and Bob Gibson. A quorum was established.

B. Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019

Mr. Jones motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. Mrs. Weber, Mr. Benusa, Mr. Jones, Mr. Holland and Chairman Watkins voted AYE.
MOTION Passed (5/0).

C. Treasurer’s Report

a. No treasurer’s report was available.

D. Old Business

a. Status of Forward Progress Plan for Economic Development Department

Mr. Schardein updated the board on the status of the Economic Development department as to the RiverLink actions to be taken. The strategies included: Implement BRE Program, Engage with a Regional Economic Development Organization, Relationships with state and regional partners, Internal Partner Team Building and Communication, Real Estate Strategy, Staffing, Technology, Communications Strategy

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and Travel and Prospect Hosting. With exception of a few items on the list, most of the goals have been achieved through staff.

Chairman Watkins asked that the departments recently awarded VEDA Community Economic Development Award be noted as a result of the plan and its accomplishments. The award was submitted by staff for the Forward Progress Plan and the current ED departments' actions taken from that plan. The EDA and staff have played a major role in accomplishing the program and its successes. Mr. Jones made a suggestion to collaborate with Goochland's Economic Development department to market and attract businesses since both Powhatan and Goochland align similarly. There was also discussion of where Powhatan aligns with other localities that are not part of a regional group and whether there would be the opportunity to create a regional group for similar surrounding counties nearby that are in the same position.

Mr. Holland asked that there be an awareness of the role of the EDA and the actions that they have taken in the past few years for the public to know what they do and have done. Chairman Watkins mentioned that having the Powhatan Today do an article for Economic Development would be beneficial to help citizens better understand the role the board and department have within the county and the benefits.

b. May's Business Appreciation Month Board of Supervisors Update-

Mr. Schardein advised the board of the Board of Supervisors intentions of passing a resolution at March's meeting recognizing May as Business Appreciation month. The EDA would also be invited to give an update to the Board of Supervisors on their work over the past year and looking to the future. Chairman Watkins asked that Mr. Schardein prepare the information that the EDA would present to the board versus what the department was updating the board on.

Mr. Jones asked about funding for the EDA through the ED department budget which Mr. Schardein updated the board as to where the ED budget stood at this time. Future projects and plans that would require funding should be established before requesting funds from the county. Mr. Holland asked about the possibility of creating a grant program and whether that would be helpful.

Mr. Jones asked that EDA funds cover at some point a study to be conducted on the rail access area of Moseley which could have an economic impact.

c. Cypress Creek Solar Farm Update-

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Mr. Schardein gave an update on the solar farm project on Cartersville Rd. Planning Commission previously denied approval of the permit. The project was heard by the Board of Supervisors at the February meeting in which the applicant withdrew during the public hearing. There was citizen opposition to the project during the meeting that mainly cited concerns over environmental concerns.

E. New Business

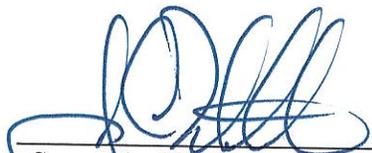
- a. **Economic Development Monthly report for February 2019** - Mr. Schardein presented the January report to the board with mention of certain highlights of interest and asked if there were any questions.

- b. **Hotel Prospect**- Mr. Schardein have the board an update on a hotel prospect at Independence Golf Club in which there was a possible need for an updated hotel study to be conducted. The hotel study could be comprised for the entire county and Independence specifically or just Independence. The costs associated with each are currently being determined and the ideas regarding funding sources will be discussed after that. The study could be funded by ED department, EDA or a combination of EDA, ED department and Independence Golf Club.

F. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jones motioned and Mr. Holland seconded the motion. Mrs. Weber, Mr. Benusa, Mr. Jones, Mr. Holland and Chairman Watkins voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (5/0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



Sen. John Watkins, Chairman
Economic Development Authority

2/8/19
Date



Bret Schardein, Secretary
Economic Development Authority

2/15/19
Date