

September 14, 2020

**MEETING OF THE POWHATAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD IN THE POCAHONTAS LANDMARK CENTER BOARD ROOM, 4290 ANDERSON
HIGHWAY IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 AT 6:00 PM**

EDA Members Present: Dan Jones, Vice-Chairman
Tim Benusa, Treasurer
Andrea Weber
Matt Schiefer
Russ Holland, Jr.

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

Guest: Jason Tibbs, PCPS Director of Facilities and CTE

A. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and noted that all members were present. A quorum was established.

Vice-Chairman Jones advised of the reason for the change in venue to the Pocahontas Landmark Center to tour the remaining spaces of the old middle school for consideration by the EDA board for repurpose. Mr. Jason Tibbs led the EDA board on a tour of the facility until 6:59 p.m. The board reconvened in the board room to resume the meeting.

B. Meeting Minutes from August 10th, 2020-

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

C. Treasurer's Report-

Mr. Benusa presented the Board with the Treasurer's report as of August balances which is \$60,014 in the Certificate of Deposit account and \$524,705 in the Checking account from the last bank statement. Mr. Benusa made mention that the increase in the checking account was due to the CARES funding for grants still in holding before being transferred to the vendor for distribution. Mr. Benusa also highlighted the fact that there were no charges to the EDA main balances for any invoices from the grant administration vendor CIC and that those charges are covered by the CARES funding.

D. Old Business-

a. CARES Act Funding for Business Grants-

- i. Update on status** - Mrs. Salerno presented the board with the status of grant applications that had been applied for with information on the business's status of qualifications.
- ii. Closing decisions** – Mrs. Salerno advised the board of the closing decisions for deciding on the grants. The board discussed and decided to continue to allow the consultants to make the final approval decisions with notice and authorization from the County. The board asked that staff follow up with a congratulations letter for the approved grant applicants from the EDA. The board also discussed an article in the newspaper to discuss the grant program.

Vice-Chairman Jones opened the floor for a motion to allow the consultants to make grant applicant decisions for qualified applicants. Mr. Schiefer made a motion and Mr. Benusa seconded the motion. Mr. Holland, Mrs. Weber, Mr. Benusa, Mr. Schiefer and Vice-Chairman voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (5/0).**

- b. Richmond Region Tourism update** – Mr. Schardein gave an update on the status of Richmond Region Tourism and Powhatan County. Mr. Schardein have a brief history of our involvement and then went over the benefits of tourism and its relationship to economic development. The discussion of rejoining mid-year or next year is still being considered based on the budget status. Mr. Jones expressed his disappointment in the decision to pull back from RRT since the benefits of their marketing has positively impacted the County's businesses.
- c. Update on the Eagle Rezoning Case: 19-06REZC** – Mr. Schardein updated the board on the history of the Eagle Case and their status after denial at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

E. New Business-

- a. Greater Richmond SBDC Funding** – Mrs. Salerno presented the board with that latest information on the formation of the re-established SBDC office for the Richmond region. The office will be hosted by Virginia Community Capital and have two staff members to serve the region. The localities included are City of Richmond, Town of Ashland, Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan, and New Kent County. The breakdown of funding was determined by the number of businesses per locality, which was \$3,122.25 for the first year through year three.

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The board had questions regarding the outcome if other counties did not decide the financially commit and asked staff to get that answer.

Vice-Chairman Jones opened the floor for a motion to fund the SBDC office through the EDA funds for years one through three. Mr. Benusa made a motion and Mr. Holland seconded the motion. Mr. Holland, Mrs. Weber, Mr. Benusa, Mr. Schiefer and Vice-Chairman voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (5/0).**

b. Repurpose of Pocahontas Landmark Center –

- i. **Economic Development Future Uses-** The board decided to continue the conversations on possible future uses at the October meeting where they would focus solely that project. Mr. Jones and Mr. Holland asked staff to do research and provide site plans of the buildings with square footage as well.

c. Economic Development Monthly Reports for August 2020 – Mrs. Salerno presented the August report to the board with mention of certain business highlights of interest and asked if there were any questions.

The board asked about the vacant seats for the EDA and whether they would be filled. Mr. Schardein informed the board about the possibility to reduce the board from a seven to five members through the General Assembly. The thought is that if there are value added members to add then those would be considered otherwise the current five members are a great representation and offer great value if the decision is to continue with five members.

Mr. Jones asked about the new Board of Supervisors continuing the conversation with the state for Beaumont and continuing in the next General Assembly session. Mr. Schardein said that would be a consideration that he brings up with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Jones also asked if there was any further conversation on the Founders Bridge water agreement, which Mr. Schardein said that staff has been advised to no longer pursue an agreement for now.

F. Closed Session and Certification- No closed session needed.

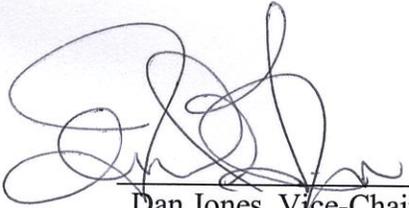
G. Adjournment

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

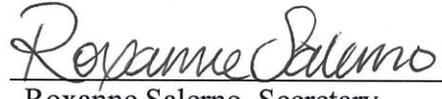
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The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



Dan Jones, Vice-Chairman Date
Economic Development Authority

 11/4/2020

Roxanne Salerno, Secretary Date
Economic Development Authority