

February 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,
FEBRUARY 11, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

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

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

Absent: Matt Schiefer
Andrea Weber

A. Call to Order

Sen. Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and noted that all members were present with the exception of Matt Schiefer and Andrea Weber. A quorum was established.

B. Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2019

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

C. Treasurer’s Report

- a. Mr. Benusa presented the Board with the Treasurer’s report as to the current balances which is \$59,695.78 in the Certificate of Deposit account and \$7,299.48 in the Checking account from the last bank statement. The board discussed the possibility of finding other CD’s with better rates at different banks.

Mr. Schardein updated the board on the budget going forward this fiscal year. The budget will have level funding without the requested funds for the EDA to use as incentive funds. Projects and programs are suggested to be developed in order to request funds from County for EDA to use as incentives. Mr. Benusa mentioned that there is a need for funds in order to offer something and be competitive.

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D. Old Business

a. 2019 General Assembly Updates-

Mr. Schardein updated the board on the current legislation that is being considered in the 2019 Virginia General Assembly. Delegate Ware has introduced a budget amendment to the *Transfer of Beaumont JCC Parcels (HB1700 Item 413 #1h)*, which was originally requested by Powhatan County to transfer 15 acres of land to Powhatan for economic development use as well as current and future water and sewer system. The bill currently only addresses the water and sewer for Powhatan, which staff has reached out to Del. Ware for clarification on the remaining bill.

Mr. Schardein updated the board on *HB 2182 DGS; surplus property, opportunity for economic development entities to purchase*, which is still in the Senate. Further tracking on this bill will be reported at the next meeting.

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 with a local business being highlighted as well. 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.

c. Belmead Sale Update-

Mr. Schardein gave an update on the purchaser of Belmead and a meeting held with them. The purchaser is still in the due diligence period although ideas were discussed regarding future use of the property, which were deemed appropriate. Preliminary plans are to keep as is and stabilize all buildings. Mainly for use as private property for now with long term plans being looked into. The property also has a 1,000 acre conservation easement currently in use.

d. Cypress Creek Solar Farm Update-

Mr. Schardein gave an update on the solar farm project on Cartersville Rd. Planning Commission previously denied approval of the permit. With pushback from community members and nearby property owners regarding the wildlife disturbance, the consultants have increased the buffers and agreed to place certain areas in conservation easements. They are in talks with various conservation easement companies about the property and trying to find the right fit. The project will go to the Board of Supervisors at the end of February. Mr. Schardein informed the board of the positives and negatives of the project. The board discussed the life of the project being typically twenty years and the revenue for the county which has been estimated at \$400,000 per year. The board discussed whether there was a need for them to support the project or not. Ultimately,

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the board decided not to offer any guidance on support of not prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting on permit in February.


E. New Business

- a. **Economic Development Monthly report for January 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. **Economic Development Plan Progress-**
Mr. Jones asked staff to look at the original plan from the RiverLink group and see where the department is in the process and what progress has been made as a measure.
- c. **Mission & Objectives of EDA-**
Mr. Gibson mentioned that the most effective EDA's in his experience had missions and objectives. The need to define the EDA's role within the county, support and direction the EDA should take.


F. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



Sen. John Watkins, Chairman 7/8/19 Date
Economic Development Authority



Bret Schardein, Secretary 7/15/19 Date
Economic Development Authority