



MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, VA

Bedford County Administration – Ground Floor Training Room

122 E Main Street

Bedford, VA 24523

September 7, 2023

5:30 p.m.

Economic Development Authority:

Present: Matthew Braud (District 4); Vicki Gardner (District 2); Jim Messier (District 7); Kristy Milton (District 5); Jimmy Robertson (District 6); Wyatt Walton (District 3); David Wells (District 1)

Absent:

Staff Present: Pam Bailey – Economic Development Director; Holley Scheffel – Business Programs Coordinator; Robert Hiss – County Administrator; Patrick Skelley – County Attorney

Guests: Charla Bansley

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

(2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Robertson called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Walton moved, seconded by Mr. Braud.

Adopted Unanimously

(3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 3, 2023

Chairman Robertson called for a motion to approve the August meeting minutes, as amended. Mr. Braud moved, seconded by Mr. Wells.

Adopted Unanimously

(4) REPORTS

A. Economic Development Director's Report

TEVA is currently under contract with project Moonstone. Capital is still being raised therefore they have not closed, yet. The building is not off the market and is actively being marketed. Prospect Precision is also interested in the building, but no offer has been made. A third interested party may be inquiring as the building they had an interest in has been sold.

Ms. Bailey met with a prospect for the purchase of the Nanotouch facility. They have expressed interest in the building, but do not require the entire space and are willing to lease space.

The Tobacco Commission recently toured the Center for Engineering Research and Education,

which they helped fund. Megan Lucas provided an overview of the Lynchburg Regional Nuclear Industry Technology & Commercialization Hub/NITCH for a grant they submitted through the US EDA. The new Deputy Director and Director of Regional Energy Development & Innovation will be focused on two new funding initiatives with Agribusiness and Energy Development. It is encouraging to hear they will request feedback from counties, industries, and businesses, which will positively impact their grant funding decisions.

Leather manufacturer, Moore & Giles, educates the consumer about the need for leather and it being eco-friendly. They have partnered with Seven Hills Food Co. to repurpose hides instead of being thrown into the landfill.

A meeting with the disc golf tournament pros discussed logistics, parking, and the possibility of selling lot 4. It was determined that the sheriff's office and the fire department would need to be on site. The tournament is scheduled for August 21-24, 2024.

A meeting with Southside Electric discussed vegetation control and its issue with half of the outages.

Ms. Bailey and other economic developers across the region will speak at the LRBA to commercial and industrial realtors regarding incentives offered. The goal is to work together with prospects.

B. Business Programs Report

September 27 will kick off the first 2023-2024 Bedford One tour with a focus on the Automotive Industry. The tour will begin at Terry Subaru with lunch included, then end the day at Wicked Diesel.

Our office was a procuring cause for the Teachers for Tomorrow students at Susie G. Gibson to attend a program at Longwood University for inspiring teachers. The tour is scheduled for October 27.

October 25 marks the second Bedford One program at Southern Air and will end the day at Innerspec Technologies.

Ms. Scheffel met with the principals & CTE Departments at Staunton River and Liberty High Schools. It was very beneficial as connections have been made to meet teachers' needs both with metal drops and guest speakers.

Ms. Bailey & Ms. Scheffel will be meeting with CTE partners with BCPS, Roanoke County & Roanoke City Public Schools, and the Dept of Labor and Industry contact, Sherie Fulcher, on September 26. The hope is to all work together to benefit the students.

9/15 CVCC is having its annual workforce conversation.

9/18 Ms. Scheffel will be speaking to SRHS regarding the Career Day Fair at Susie G. Gibson

10/4 Career Day at Susie G Gibson for 7th graders.

In October, Ms. Scheffel is attending the World Works Career and Industry Expo in Tuscaloosa, Alabama at Shelton State Community College. Replicating this event here in our region is the goal.

The JF Career Coach has been hired and will be training at CVCC. A candidate for SRHS is moving through the hiring process. This position will cover both Staunton and Liberty. The LRBA is working on a GO Virginia grant to potentially help fund these as full-time positions. The concern is that the funding would be needed every year, and not just for a short period of time. Ms. Bailey has spoken with Bif Johnson, a VCCS Board member, regarding funding this position.

C. Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Bailey stated that per Ms. Anderson, the first draft of the audit is complete and well ahead of schedule. A final report and presentation by Ms. Anderson may be presented at the December meeting. Ms. Bailey will discuss with Finance an explanation of reports and Accounts Receivable.

D. Monthly Accounts Payable Report – (see August bills that have been paid)

EDA	
EDA Mileage – August meeting	\$111.79
Bedford Center	
Town of Bedford Power – CVCC	\$2,462.69
Peaksview Landscaping	\$1,494.17
BRWA – CVCC	\$135.00
New London	
Southside Electric	\$593.00
Peaksview Landscaping	\$508.34
Washington Street	
Peaksview Landscaping	\$121.67
TOTAL:	\$5,426.66

TOWN OF BEDFORD

Nothing to report.

(5) BEDFORD CENTER FOR BUSINESS

A. Approval of CVCC HVAC project

Of the three quotes requested, Trane & Whitt Mechanical responded, but Southern Air did not. Mr. Coffman's recommendation was to accept Witt Mechanical's quote.

Mr. Walton moved, seconded by Mr. Wells to award the contract to Whitt Mechanical

Adopted Unanimously.

B. Discussion of East Coast Fabrication expansion request

East Coast desires to expand the building by 15,000 SF. Due to rising construction costs, a new building is not financially practical, and refiguring space could maximize the need. Al Philpott Manufacturing Extension Partnership was suggested to solve the operational and business challenges.

(6) MONTVALE CENTER FOR COMMERCE

There are no updates currently.

(7) NEW LONDON BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

A. Lot 4 Tier Status report

Lot 4 is now a Tier 5 site, and the current project in phase 2 is coming along and is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

The prospect for lot 11 is still interested but has another parcel to sell.

Project Dovetail still has interest, but a decision has not been made.

(8) WASHINGTON STREET PROPERTY

The paving project will begin next week and will be completed in three phases, with milling in the evening. Project cost: \$226,192. Budget: \$200,000. The shortfall will derive from Emergency Maintenance Funds.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of revised EDA by-laws

Due to the request for remote participation, By-law Bi 1-5 has been revised to allow for remote participation and in-person meetings. This request is only under special circumstances, must be pre-approved by the Chairman, and can only be taken twice in a fiscal year.

Mr. Walton moved to adopt the revised by-law, seconded by Mr. Braud.

Voting yes: Mr. Braud, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Messier, Ms. Milton, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Walton, Mr. Wells

Adopted Unanimously

B. Close Valtim performance agreements

Valtim was not able to meet job requirements per the agreement. Mr. Wells made a motion to claw back \$15,000. No second motion.

Mr. Walton made a motion to claw back \$20,000, seconded by Ms. Milton.

Voting no: Mr. Braud, Mr. Messier, Mr. Robertson

Motion passes

C. Close Blue Ridge Optics performance agreement

Blue Ridge was not able to maintain forty-two positions.

Mr. Walton made a motion to claw back \$13,200, seconded by Mr. Wells. Payment in full within 60 days.

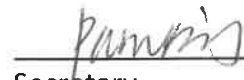
Voting no: Mr. Braud.

Motion passes.

A motion was made by Mr. Braud, seconded by Ms. Gardner, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourned 7:00 pm


Chairman


Secretary