

AT A MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA) HELD AT THE VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER OFFICES LOCATED AT 487 MAURY RIVER ROAD, LEXINGTON, VA 24450 ON FEBRUARY 18, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.

PRESENT: J. LINGON JONES, JR., DAVID FERRIS, JANIE HARRIS, ROBBIE FAULKNER, BOYD BROWN, B.G. LOCHER AND ROY POWELL

ABSENT: NONE
EDA COUNSEL: LEE TAYLOR (not present)
SECRETARY: SAM CRICKENBERGER
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: DAVID McDANIEL
MEDIA:
OTHER:

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Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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The second agenda item was citizen comments.
There were no comments.

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The third agenda item was the approval of the January 21, 2020 meeting minutes.
Upon a motion by Mr. Locher, seconded by Mr. Brown, the EDA voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

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The fourth agenda item was the activities report.
Mr. Crickenberger informed the EDA about Dominion grant for Lime Kiln and the proposed expansion of Blue Ridge Christian Homes in Steels Tavern. There was also some discussion about the sale of the former Natural Bridge Learning Center property.

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The fifth agenda item was follow-up discussion on the two GoVirginia projects, the Economic Gardening Program and the Hemp Research through JMU. Mr. Brown recused himself from the discussion on the Economic Gardening Program as he is considering future participation in the program.

Mr. Faulkner asked if we planned to use EDA funds to match these grants and how the Board of Supervisors supported the EDA. Discussion strayed to the topic of the sale of Stonebridge Center, the former Natural Bridge High School, to Virginia Tech and what their plans might be for the property. It was suggested that the County should have retained a first

right of refusal in the deal and future such deals. There was also some frustration expressed over the County's workforce issue and why more people were not moving here to live and work.

Following some more discussion, on motion by Mrs. Harris and second by Mr. Farris, the EDA voted unanimously to financially support the Economic Gardening Program with amount to be determined at a later date depending on number and quality of participants. This was followed by a motion by Mr. Powel and second by Mr. Brown, the EDA voted unanimously to approve financially supporting the Hemp research.

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Under New Business, the last agenda item, Mr. Crickenberger informed the EDA that he would retiring at the end of June.

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With no further business to discuss, upon a motion by Mr. Powell and second by Mr. Locher, the EDA voted unanimously to adjourn and to participate individually in the Career Fest.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Crickenberger
Secretary

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