

Economic Development Authority

March 19, 2018 Minutes

Page County Government Center

Board of Supervisors Room

103 S. Court Street, Luray, VA 22835

5:30PM

Members Present: Craig Lancto, Chair
Leslie Currle, Vice Chair
Brooke Newman
Mark Dofflemyer
Greg Foltz
Joshua Knight

Members Absent: Jay Dedman

Others Present: Liz Lewis Page County ED

Call to Order: Craig Lancto called meeting to order 5:32pm.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. Currle and seconded by Mr. Foltz. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were unable to be approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Dofflemyer presented the treasurer's report. They also issued checks for the Enterprise Zone grant backs and for the Page County Technical Center Business Roundtable breakfast.

Old Business: Mr. Lancto stated that they were going to speak about the mission statement at the end of the meeting, pending time, due to a full meeting agenda.

Ms. Currle then discussed the loan program. She proposed looking back at the minutes when the loan program was established and set up to see if any changes could be made. She also proposed the possibility of having a separate financial branch of the EDA instead of having every small detail come to the full board. Mr. Lancto stated that they had discussed previously that Ms. Currle and Mr. Dofflemyer would comprise a sub-committee that would look over the loans before presenting them to the full body. Mr. Lancto also brought up the possibility of a grant program, which the EDA does not currently have a specific fund for, which he also wanted Ms. Currle and Mr. Dofflemyer to look over; however Ms. Currle felt more comfortable with the full board looking over the grants, since there has only been one request thus far.

Ms. Lewis brought up the EDA vision and plan and how the EDA corresponds with what she's doing with Economic Development. Mr. Lancto stated that the mission is to improve the welfare of residents of this county and everything that they're doing along those lines is meeting that need. He also mentioned the idea of having a sub-committee that is able to meet and talk about it. He stated that it was an issue that he wanted to come back to since there is other business to be taken care of.

New Business:

Mr. Lancto then discussed the website update, which now contains the meeting minutes and agendas; however, the old website is still showing up while searching and it contains old information.

They then discussed e-mail access, which some members are still having trouble accessing.

Mr. Lancto discussed how people are more intrigued and want to ask questions when he says he's with "the authority" versus just stating he's with the EDA.

Mr. Lancto then discussed the Farm Association Event. He stated Mr. Dedman is the member that is working with these projects; however, he was unable to be at the meeting. Ms. Lewis stated that she went to a rural innovation conference with Mr. Dedman which was about industrial hemp. She stated that there is an application process that you must go through and gave some rules and regulations that farmers would have to follow if this became a plant that farmers would want to grow in Page County. Mr. Lancto stated that more information on industrial hemp would be available on April 26th at the Luray Fire Hall. Mr. Lancto asked for a motion to be made to donate \$250 to the informational meeting at the Fire Hall. Mr. Dofflemyer made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Currle. After a unanimous vote, the motion was carried.

Chairman Lancto stated that the farm land close to the Page County Technical Center that has been lying dormant for quite some time and he has been made aware that there are some places that have students farming land and then donating the money to scholarships. He spoke with Leigh Ann Pettit, the principal of PCTC, and she stated that both she and Donna Whitley Smith had discussed the possibility for students to farm and there have also been farmers that have volunteered to let the students use their farm equipment and resources. Mr. Lancto, along with public members, agreed that they would partner with the Page County FFA to get the project going. Ms. Currle set forth a motion and was seconded by Mr. Knight. After a roll call vote, the motion was carried.

Ms. Lewis then gave an update about the Meeting of the Minds, Economic Development, zones, and her goals for the County. Ms. Curre then had questions in reference to doing another Farm to Table event. Ms. Lewis also showed the proposed amendment to the Enterprise Zone boundary for each town.

Chairman Lancto stated that he spoke with someone from Bluemont Tech, who is starting a new program for graphic design and rental office space to be used in the County. He also discussed a livestock auction house, which one of the audience members stated that it would not be very beneficial to the County, as it is too expensive and the need for the auction houses is decreasing.

Public Comments:

GR Freeze- Guide those who are interested in developing a winery to the right piece of land, so there will be no conflict with other farmers.

Gary Jenkins- Can the USDA loan money only be used for agriculture since it comes from the EDA? What locations in the County are used for the tourism zone?

Clyde Humphry- Looking for people who are interested in putting together public forums on economy, tourism and job opportunities in the County.

Mike Uram- Unemployment is 6.9% and decreasing.

Member Comments:

No Comments

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm by Craig Lancto.

Liz Lewis, Clerk