



**MEETING MINUTES  
BEDFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Bedford County Administration Ground Floor Training Room  
122 E. Main Street  
Bedford, VA 24523  
April 29, 2017  
2 p.m.**

**Economic Development Authority:**

**:Present:**

Dennis Novitzke - Dist. 1; Mickey Johnson, Vice-Chairman - Dist. 2; Wyatt Walton, Chairman - Dist. 3; Matthew Braud - Dist. 4; Jim Lusk - Dist. 5; Kelly Harmony - Dist. 6; Jim Messier - Dist. 7

**:Absent:** None

**:Staff Present:** Traci Blido – EDA Secretary; Carl Boggess – County Administrator; Reid Wodicka – Deputy County Administrator; Jessica Hupp – Transcriber

**:Staff Absent:** Patrick Skelley – County Attorney

**:Guests:** None

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**(1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Walton asked for approval and/or any amendments to the Authority's April 29, 2017 agenda.

**Mrs. Harmony moved, seconded by Mr. Braud, to approve the April 29, 2017 EDA agenda, as presented.**

**Voting yes: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Braud, Mr. Lusk, Mrs. Harmony, Mr. Walton, Mr. Messier, Mr. Novitzke**

**Voting no: None**

**Adopted Unanimously**

**(2) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –April 6, 2017**

Mr. Walton asked for approval and/or any amendments to the Authority's regular April 6, 2017 meeting minutes.

**Mr. Braud moved, seconded by Mr. Messier, to approve the April 6, 2017 meeting minutes, as presented.**

**Voting yes: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Braud, Mr. Lusk, Mrs. Harmony, Mr. Walton, Mr. Messier**

**Voting no: None**

**Abstain: Mr. Novitzke**

**(3) REPORTS**

**A. Economic Development Director's Report**

Mrs. Blido reported she attended the Craft Brewer's Conference in D.C. a few weeks ago and our region had a very impressive booth. We were in a prime location, only a few booths down from the Governor. Our group brought in quite a number of interested parties, and featured a video highlighting local companies involved in beverage production, including Sentry Equipment and Smyth.

Mrs. Blido reported she was interviewed on CNBC Frontline for a story on LED lighting that featured Litesheet Solutions. Mrs. Blido talked about how municipalities and industrial institutions can benefit by the energy and cost savings of using LED lights.

Mrs. Blido stated she submitted the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission grant for grading and excavation on lot 3B in New London. Staff will attend the TRRC May 17 and May 18 meetings where the commission will vote on the application.

Mrs. Blido stated that the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance (the Alliance) launched its new 5-year capital campaign, *Accelerating our Future*, and has already raised half of their \$3.3 million funding goal. We will see a lot more marketing for the region, and will be attending the Select USA conference and several others with the region this year. In addition, we will be having site selector events more frequently in our locality next year. Mrs. Blido reminded the EDA that the Board of supervisors brought back full funding to the Alliance because of the assistance they're giving with TEVA.

**B. Monthly Financial Report**

Mrs. Blido reviewed the monthly financial report with the EDA.

**C. Monthly Accounts Payable Report – Bills that have been paid**

Staff reviewed the accounts payable report with the EDA. Mr. Lusk asked if we were finished paying Hurt & Proffitt. Mr. Boggess stated that was for the grading plan in New London and we are finished with that.

**D. Existing Business Report**

Ms. Hupp reported we received the official letter from the state designating the New London Business and Technology Center as a tier 4 site, which means all infrastructure is in place. Brian Cossman from Hurt & Proffitt has reached out to us about applying for phase two of the grant which could qualify the EDA for more grant funding to grade more lots.

Ms. Hupp stated the Annual Business Appreciation Event will be held on June 8 at Beale's from 5-7 p.m. Guests should get a taste of the local beer and Jared Srcic will be doing the barbeque for the event. In addition, Staff will be placing an ad in the Bedford Bulletin to thank local businesses for doing business here in Bedford County. Mr. Walton asked if that would be Beale's grand opening. Mrs. Blido stated that they planned on a soft opening at the beginning of June, but we're not sure if it will be done by that point. They have ensured us it will be ready by our event date.

Ms. Hupp stated that the EDA gave Blue Ridge Optics a \$54,000 incentive last year, which was broken up over three years. April 2017 was the first anniversary of the incentive agreement, so we requested a

report on their progress. So far, Blue Ridge Optics has invested well over the amount committed and have added two more employees, or 12 new, than what they committed. Once we get that information validated, we'll cut the new incentive check, as directed.

Ms. Hupp reported that Bedford Main Street's (BMS) Zero Interest Loan match is now being utilized. Blue Ridge Overland Gear applied and were approved for an equipment purchase that will allow them to bring more production in house. Mr. Johnson asked how much money was available, Ms. Hupp stated \$40,000 and said they expect a few more companies will submit applications in the near future. Main Street is also launching their second boot camp in mid-August, and they are having a stakeholder meeting on May 22 to get the word out. All EDA members are invited to attend.

**(4) TOWN OF BEDFORD**

**A. Beale's and Bedford Update**

Mrs. Blido stated she met with Dave this week and has been very impressed with the progress. Beale's will have various barbecued meats with a locally hand-crafted smoker made for the site. They will also have an Airstream travel trailer on site to use at events and to serve beer out of.

Mr. Lusk asked what will happen now that Charlie Kolakowski has left. Mrs. Blido stated she has not talked to Bart yet, but can reach out. He will likely be overwhelmed until they get him some help.

**(5) NEW LONDON BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

**A. Lot 1 and Lot3A authorization for execution of closing documents**

Mrs. Blido stated you may want to authorize the chairman to execute all documents related to the closings.

**Mr. Messier moved, seconded by Mr. Novitzke, to authorize the chairman to execute any closing documents related to Lot 1 and Lot 3A.**

**Voting yes: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Braud, Mr. Lusk , Mrs. Harmony, Mr. Walton, Mr. Messier, Mr. Novitzke**

**Voting no: None**

**Adopted Unanimously**

**(6) MONTVALE CENTER FOR COMMERCE**

**(7) ALL OTHER EDA BUSINESS**

Mrs. Blido stated that June 1 would be the next EDA meeting, but it is also supposed to be the "soft opening" of Beale's around that time. Mrs. Blido stated we will see what happens once the date becomes more finalized, but we'll continue with our June 1 meeting as planned.

**(8) ADJOURNMENT**

**- 2:21 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

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**Chairman**

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**Secretary**