



**MEETING MINUTES
BEDFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Bedford County Welcome Center
816 Burks Hill Rd.
Bedford, VA 24523
October 13, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

Economic Development Authority:

:Present:

Dennis Novitzke – Dist. 1; Mickey Johnson – Dist. 2; Wyatt Walton – Vice Chairman, Dist. 3; Matthew Braud, Dist. 4; Jim Lusk – Chairman, Dist. 5; Kim McCabe, Dist. 6; Kristy Milton, Dist. 7

:Absent: None

Staff Present: Traci Blido – EDA Secretary;

Staff Absent: Jessica Hupp – Transcriber; Carl Boggess – Interim County Administrator/County Attorney

Guest: Mr. Wade White, Virginia Hunter Education Association

(1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lusk called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked if anyone had any changes they wished to make to the agenda.

Mr. Braud moved, seconded by Mr. Novitzke, to approve the October 13, 2015 agenda, as presented.

Voting yes: Mr. Novitzke, Mr. Lusk, Mr. Braud, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Walton, Ms. McCabe, Mrs. Milton

Voting no: None

Adopted unanimously

(2) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – September 3, 2015

Mr. Lusk asked for approval and/or amendments to the Authority's September 3, 2015 meeting minutes.

Mr. Braud moved, seconded by Ms. McCabe, to approve the September 3, 2015 meeting minutes, as presented.

Voting yes: Mr. Novitzke, Mr. Lusk, Mr. Braud, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Walton, Ms. McCabe, Mrs. Milton

Voting no: None

Adopted Unanimously

(3) REPORTS

a. Economic Development Director's Report

Mrs. Blido reported she has met with a couple of different prospects this month, including the solar panel company she has spoken with in the past. They are currently looking at Montvale with the intention to at some point build a 100,000 square foot facility, even if they need to find a temporary location first.

LiteSheet Solutions is looking for a new space since they're beginning to outgrow the Little Otter facility they are leasing. Thanks to Simplimatic acquiring Dramco, Dramco's 20,000 square-foot building is up for sale on Waterlick Rd. Mrs. Blido stated she took LiteSheet to check out the space and they showed some interest. The building is larger than they need right now, but she said she was hoping they could grow into it. They are only looking to lease and the owner is open to that arrangement too.

Mrs. Blido stated that the broadband project in Montvale is moving forward. The planning commission will meet on it October 20 and then the Board of Supervisors will make a decision on November 10 on the Special Use Permit. If all is approved, we could see the tower put up by January. There are four or five Internet service providers (ISPs) interested in servicing the Montvale area once the tower is available, and Mid-Atlantic Broadband will select one that delivers high speed and low cost services to Bedford County residents.

Mrs. Blido stated she has recently attended several Tobacco Commission meetings and that the R&D committee led by Del. Kathy Byron announced they are looking at doing loan programs instead of grant programs in the future. She is keeping an eye on the changes that will be coming.

Mrs. Blido reported she co-hosted 32 people from Virginia and Maryland for the Virginia Maryland Ag Marketing Professionals tour held last week at Mariner's Landing. The group spent an entire day in Bedford County, touring several businesses including Eco-Friendly Foods in Moneta, Royal Oak Farm in Evington, and Gardner Heifers in Huddleston. They also got to hear from the county's extension agent and tourism director, followed by a tour of the D-Day Memorial. Mrs. Blido reported they then went to the Sedalia Center for a roundtable discussion on food hubs and on a tour of Georgia Pacific in Big Island to learn about its \$40 million expansion and environmental programs that incorporate agriculture. The entire event was sponsored by private sector companies so no money came directly from the Economic Development budget. Agriculture & Consumer Services Secretary Todd Haymore visited Bedford County during the tour and thanked us for hosting the tour along with Pittsylvania County where he grew up.

Mrs. Blido stated she will be attending the FABTECH show in Chicago next month because she has partnered with Site Location Partners to organize meetings with different site selectors to raise awareness of our properties and incentives available. Mrs. Blido thanked the EDA members who volunteered to

attend the TechEdge awards next week. Mrs. Blido will be unable to attend, however Mr. Braud, Mrs. Milton, and Mr. Novitzke will be representing the county. Mrs. Blido stated she nominated Dr. Fred Conner for STEM Educator of the Year, and found out today that Bedford County was also going to be recognized for our work on broadband as well, so Allen Boaz, Chairman of the Broadband Advisory Committee, will be attending.

b. Monthly Financial Report

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

c. Monthly Accounts Payable Report – bills that have been paid

Mrs. Blido reviewed the accounts payable report with the EDA.

d. Existing Business Report

Mrs. Blido stated that although Ms. Hupp is not in attendance, she gave a quick report including there will be a Bedford One tour next week at Simplimatic, Clearview Software, Nanotouch and the CAER.

Mr. Walton asked if we received the IRF grant that was submitted, to which Mrs. Blido stated the grant was submitted by the deadline and the Governor is expected to make IRF announcements in January. Mrs. Blido stated the IRF grant application was an extensive process through an online application. If we do not receive the IRF grant for the project, there is a chance the developer may not move forward with the project and we may reapply next year.

(4) **Old Business** – none

(5) **New Business** – none

(6) New London Business & Technology Center

A. Approval of Youth Hunt

Mr. Lusk stated the EDA needs to give approval for the annual youth hunt this year. Mr. Wade White from the Virginia Hunter Education Association addressed the EDA and explained they are planning the same type of event as the last several years to be held on November 21 and December 12. Interested youth will submit an application, and the association will choose up to 14 kids. Mr. Johnson asked what type of experience the youth has to have to be a part of the youth hunt. Mr. White stated they are required to have passed a hunter education course, and many have at least fired their gun in the past. Mr. White stated there are instructors who have direct contact with each student and complete control of each firing situation. Mr. Lusk asked what type of hunt it would be, to which Mr. White stated it would be a rifle hunt in November and a muzzle loader hunt in December. Mr. White explained he sets all the blinds up himself and designates each firing zone. Mr. Braud stated we need to make sure to notify the businesses in the park.

Ms. McCabe moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to authorize the Hunter Education Association to hold its annual youth hunt on November 21 and December 12 in the New London Business and Technology Center park.

Voting yes: Mr. Novitzke, Mr. Lusk, Mr. Braud, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Walton, Ms. McCabe, Mrs.

Milton

Voting no: None

Adopted Unanimously

- (7) Bedford Center for Business - none**
- (8) Montvale Center for Commerce - none**
- (9) All Other EDA Business as may be appropriate**

Mr. Johnson stated he wanted to thank Jim for doing such a great job representing the EDA in the joint meeting tonight.

(10) Adjournment

-6:46 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chairman

Secretary