



**MEETING MINUTES  
BEDFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Bedford County Administration Board Room  
122 E. Main Street  
Bedford, VA 24523  
November 2, 2017  
5:30 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

**Absent:** Jim Messier - Dist. 7

**Staff Present:** Traci Blido – EDA Secretary; Carl Boggess – County Administrator; Patrick Skelley – County Attorney; Wyatt Woody - Director of Parks and Recreation; Sean Castle - Trail Specialist, Parks and Recreation

**Staff Absent:** None

**Transcriber:** Julia Peters

**Guests:** Rich Diddams, Executive Director, Center for Energy Research and Education (CERE)

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**(1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Walton asked for approval and/or any amendments to the Authority's November 2, 2017 agenda.

**Mrs. Harmony moved, seconded by Mr. Novitzke, to approve the November 2, 2017 EDA agenda, as amended.**

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

**Voting no: None**

**Adopted Unanimously**

**(2) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –October 10, 2017**

Mr. Walton asked for approval and/or any amendments to the Authority's regular October 10, 2017 meeting minutes.

**Mr. Lusk moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes, as presented.**

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

**Voting no: None**

**Adopted unanimously**

**(3) SPECIAL APPEARANCE - Rich Diddams, CxA, LEED GA, Executive Director, Center for Energy Research and Education**

Mr. Diddams gave a slide presentation regarding the objectives and mission of the Center. He spoke about moving the School of Engineering to the Center and focusing on energy, shaping their curriculum to industry needs. By focusing on industry, their engineers can be more of a commodity in the workforce and are trusted and relevant when they graduate. Many industries do not like internship programs where a student comes in for a couple hours a week. These industries would rather have more of a co-op program where a Junior-year student would come in for a whole semester. The students can collaborate with industry and industry is more likely to employ them once they graduate. He presented the Lot 1 Site Master Plan showing where the industrial, mechanical and electrical engineering schools will be housed and said next year they will be including civil engineering. The Computational Science Department will stay on the main campus and only the School of Engineering will move to the Center. They are also reaching out to other universities such as UVA, VA Tech, and Old Dominion who have many resources they can bring to CERE. The Center also has the opportunity to apply for Department of Energy (DOE) grants. They want to ask industries what they need so they can provide a relevant workforce for the community and economic opportunities for all. On his next visit, he will share any progress.

Mr. Lusk asked about the status of the BWXT test facility in the CERE. Mr. Diddams said that they have signed an MOU with BWXT for the IST and are finalizing contract details for the sale over to Liberty, but nothing has been signed yet. CERE is also pursuing grant opportunities. Mr. Diddams reported that the Oak Ridge National Lab Grant is small, but there are six other research opportunities with the Dept. of Energy as well. The initial timeline for submission is January 23, 2018 and they are well on their way to writing up their proposals and letters of intent and they are collaborating with proven entities and universities with good success records to seek this funding.

Mr. Walton asked Mr. Diddams what the new building will look like. He said the building will look similar to the current CERE building. It will be an energy efficient structure (LEED certified) and have a big atrium with the majority of the space being labs. They will also have office space for 26 faculty. They are working with LiteSheet Solutions for LED lighting and also extended an offer to them for a lab. The timeline for classes to begin is the Fall of 2019. They are just about done with the grading and construction should begin in April. They are very excited about the Center and want to keep the Authority informed and are open to any questions, suggestions, or concerns the Authority may have.

Mr. Walton and Mrs. Blido thanked Mr. Diddams for attending the meeting and giving the update and encouraged him to return when there are additional details to report in the future.

**(4) REPORTS**

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

Mrs. Blido told the Authority that the Colonial Pipeline recently announced they would be closing down their flow of fuel to the Montvale site which employs around 30 people and it will make an economic impact on the county. As an example, companies such as Watts Petroleum will now have to go to Greensboro or Richmond to pick up fuel, which may result in higher prices. Any company including Sampson-Bladen that gets their fuel in Montvale will have to go further distances which she believes will increase prices for everyone. Mrs. Blido and Mr. Boggess attended the Virginia Trucking Association meeting and they are trying to get more information to see if they can urge leaders to keep it open. Mrs.

Blido said she has talked with Senator Steve Newman, but she does not know that anyone can do anything to change the closing. The private sector cost to upgrade the pipe, which was built in the 1960's, is anywhere from \$50 million to \$300 million dollars. Discussion followed regarding what to do with the property after it is decontaminated and cleaned up. It is good flat land and someone could take it over, but the Authority wants to have some redevelopment thoughts about the property when it does shut down and is properly decommissioned. Mr. Boggess stated that DEQ would be involved and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade sent his Deputy Director to the meeting.

Mrs. Blido also met with John Putney regarding Go Virginia since he was unable to attend the EDA meeting. She reported that there is \$1.1 million dollars in funding available for public/private sector projects and we are in Region 2 with Blacksburg and Roanoke. The business clusters that fall into this are Advanced Manufacturing, Life Science, Health Care, Food and Beverage Processing and Emerging Technology or IT. You must demonstrate economic impact with jobs and investment and also have high wages to apply. There is a one to one match. Workforce Investment Boards in Region 2 are working together to propose a project. They have until November 28 to apply. Six or seven people have already applied for the funds and several more have made inquiries so there is a lot of competition for the funding.

Mrs. Blido also reported Bedford Main Street had their boot camp or pitch for businesses and her office provided \$5,000 in prize money which will be awarded to two companies who are locating to Bedford Main Street. There were 10 participating businesses, but no announcement yet on which companies will be awarded the money.

Mrs. Blido has been working closely with Teva Pharmaceuticals as they gather information for their broker. They are interested in subdividing their property. She has also been busy with many prospects and lots of inquiries. The Town has made no announcement yet regarding their Economic Development Coordinator position.

#### **B. Monthly Financial Report**

There is no financial report this month for review due to being ahead of schedule with previous reports.

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

Staff reviewed the accounts payable report with the EDA.

### **(5) TOWN OF BEDFORD**

#### **A. Bedford Update**

Mrs. Blido previously reported on the economic development position and the Main Street incentive. She stated that the hotel has been meeting with the Town officials. She also has toured and met with the new owners of Winoa, formerly Wheelabrator, and their new investment firm, KPS, and they are familiar with incentives and knew about tobacco grants and R&D. They asked her many questions and the company offered an amazing tour. She will be working next month on connecting the company to training resources and grants.

### **(6) NEW LONDON BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

#### **A. New London Tech Trails Agreement with Parks & Recreation**

Wyatt Woody and Sean Castle presented a map of the New London Tech Trails. Once the deed of easement is signed, Parks & Recreation will be responsible with keeping the trails up. The students at Bedford Science and Technology Center will help build the kiosks, giving them on-site experience. They

are also interested in making the 60 plus directional signs that are needed. They are very excited about having the students help with this project. Mr. Castle spoke about the trail loops and how they are very user friendly, which is why the community gravitates toward using them.

The Authority reviewed the resolution authorizing the easement and discussion followed regarding various points in the resolution.

**Mr. Lusk moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the resolution authorizing the easement for the New London Tech Trails**

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

**Voting no: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Adopted unanimously**

#### **B. Update on Bid Process for Grading**

Mr. Boggess has put out the bidding documents regarding the grading and will answer questions from bidders. The lots to be graded are 3b, part of lot 4, 10a and 12a. He hopes to have grading begin before the end of the calendar year and finish up in the spring. He will send an e-mail to EDA members when he gets the bids in, which should be the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Mr. Boggess said the EDA will see any plans for facilities to be built since they must approve them first.

#### **(7) BEDFORD CENTER FOR BUSINESS**

Nothing to report

#### **(8) MONTVALE CENTER FOR COMMERCE**

Nothing to report

#### **(9) Closed Session**

**Mr. Braud moved, seconded by Mr. Lusk, that the Bedford County Economic Development Authority enter a Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), regarding the disposition of publicly held real property and pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(29) regarding the potential award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds.**

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

**Voting no: None**

**Adopted unanimously**

**Authority member Mr. Braud made a motion, seconded by Authority member Mr. Lusk, to return to regular session.**

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

**Voting no: None**

**Adopted unanimously**

**On a motion made by Authority member Mr. Braud, seconded by Authority member Mr. Lusk, which carried on a vote of yes, the following resolution was adopted:**

Whereas, the Bedford County Economic Development Authority has convened a Closed Meeting on this the 2nd day of November 2017, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Bedford County Economic Development Authority that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved on this 2nd of November 2017, that the Bedford County Economic Development Authority does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting was heard, discussed or considered by the Bedford County Economic Development Authority.

**MEMBERS:**

**VOTE:**


Kelly Harmony	Yes
Mickey Johnson	Yes
Matthew Braud	Yes
Jim Lusk	Yes
Dennis Novitzke	Yes
Wyatt Walton	Yes

**(9) ALL OTHER EDA BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**(10) ADJOURNMENT  
6:50 - p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

  
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Chairman

  
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Secretary