

**Economic Development Authority
Of
Lancaster County, Virginia
At
Chesapeake Bank
Training Center
Minutes – January 19, 2017**

Members Attending: Chairman Szyperski, Mr. Pennell, Mr. Pittman, Mr. Curry, Mr. Carter and Mr. Fleet. Mr. Davenport was absent.

Others Present: Mr. Pleva, Executive Director and Crystal Whay, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Szyperski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

September 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pennell moved to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes. Mr. Szyperski seconded the motion. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2017

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Fleet seconded the motion to reappoint Jeffrey Szyperski as Chairman. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Curry seconded the motion to appoint Roy Carter as Vice Chairman. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Szyperski seconded the motion to reappoint Frank Pleva as Secretary-Treasurer. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Financial Report

Mr. Pleva stated that there are no bond requests of the EDA at the present time. He stated that the bank balance is currently around \$124,000. He stated that he will prepare a memorandum that will show the EDA's balance and anticipated administrative fees, so they will have a good idea of what they have before they start receiving annual requests.

Mr. Szyperski asked for an estimate of the anticipated administrative fees.

Mr. Pleva replied between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

New Business

Mr. Szyperski stated that he thought the EDA could be more proactive and strongly encouraged the members to attend the Visions' meetings. He stated that the meetings are now held at the Lancaster Community Library on the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. He stated that there has been some discussion about rotating venues in an effort to become more regional.

Other Business

Mr. Carter gave the members some materials and stated that he had been doing some business in the western part of the state and noticed that counties such as Amherst and Augusta are very pro-business. He encouraged the members to visit the Amherst County website and notice how business friendly the site is. He stated that most of the competitive advantages that the website lists, Lancaster County has, even though Amherst is a more populated county. He stated that he would like to see similar features on the Lancaster County website.

Mr. Carter stated that he researched the demographics of Amherst County and found that it has almost three times the population and three times more square miles than Lancaster County, but median family incomes are almost the same.

Mr. Pennell stated that some of the advantages that Amherst County has is four-lane highways and reliable internet service. Mr. Carter agreed and stated that he would like to see smaller businesses come to the County that may not need four-lane highways to be successful. He stated that a good start would be to update the County's website with economic advantages for business and become more business friendly. He also stated that the "search" feature does not work on the County's website.

Mr. Szyperski stated that the only way the County will get broadband service is with a regional effort.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would discuss potential website updates with the Information Technology person.

Mr. Szyperski thanked Mr. Carter for the research and stated that there is a need to embrace the regional approach for economic development.

Adjournment

Mr. Fleet moved and Mr. Carter seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. **VOTE: 6-0.**