

**Economic Development Authority  
of  
Lancaster County, Virginia**

Minutes – May 2, 2013

Members Attending: Acting Chairman Fleet, Mr. Szyperski, Mr. Pittman, Mr. Pennell, Mr. Kyzer and Mr. Curry.

Members Absent: Mr. Barrack.

Others Present: Mr. Frank Pleva, Mr. Jimmie Carter, Ms. Lindsay Gardner and Mr. Paul Sciacchitano.

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

Mr. Fleet showed the resolution for Mr. Weston Conley, EDA Chairman, that was presented from the County of Lancaster.

**YouthWorks**

Ms. Lindsay Gardner, President of Visions and the librarian for the Lancaster Community Library opened her presentation by stating that her request is for \$10,000 for the summer program and that that was in line with past contributions. She stated that she was happy to report that Northumberland County also gave them \$10,000 last year.

Mr. Fleet asked about the Dupont contribution.

Ms. Gardner stated that the summer program typically runs about \$100,000. She stated that for this year the Dupont contribution is approximately \$70,000.

Ms. Gardner stated that all of the YouthWorks participants are at-risk and in poverty. She stated that they are screened at the high school and they can only take 20 Lancaster County students a year, so it has become competitive. She stated that with the skills they learn through the program, there have been many success stories.

Mr. Kyzer asked if the program had repeat participants.

Ms. Gardner replied yes and that most of the participants want to stay in the program. She stated that most of them enter as a high school sophomore and stay with the program through high school.

Mr. Szyperski asked about job placement for the participants.

Ms. Gardner replied that her group has found that two to four participants get permanent jobs each year.

Mr. Fleet stated that the request was for student wages and he thought the employers paid the wages.

Ms. Gardner stated that the employer pays the wages, but then they are reimbursed. She stated that they realize that it is not sustainable, so they are exploring other ways to administer the program, such as a one-time administrative fee to participate for the businesses. She stated that they are also exploring other grants besides the Dupont grant.

Mr. Pennell stated that the Authority would wait until all presentations had been made before they discussed possible awards.

### **Center for Rural Virginia Annual Summit**

Mr. Jimmie Carter, a Visions Group representative, stated that the business community and the County government have been trying to create economic stimulus in the county. He stated that to that end, there have been two initiatives. He stated that the first was the Lead Northern Neck Program and the second is the Visions Group. He stated that they need to protect local jobs, understand the county's issues and sell the area for future business.

Mr. Carter stated that the Virginia Rural Center was established by the General Assembly in 2005 and it promotes regional economic development and they have a meeting every year. He stated that The Tides Inn in Irvington is one of their three options for their annual meeting this September. He stated that if the Center holds their meeting in an urban area, they receive a higher per diem rate, whereas if they hold the meeting in a rural area, the rate is more. He stated that they are seeking \$2500 from the EDA to cover the per diem spread. He stated that the request is conditional based on whether the final decision would be to hold the conference at The Tides Inn. He stated that the conference would include policy makers that have the same things in mind for promotion of economic development in rural areas.

Mr. Pennell stated that whether or not the Authority approve the \$2500 request, he thought the record should show that they need to ask the Congressman and two Senators to raise the GSA per diem. He stated that it was his understanding that that rate was established by the federal government and rural areas, if they do not object, get \$76 per night, but there have been a number of exceptions granted. He thinks it would be a good idea for the EDA to take action to ask those three people to do what they can for Lancaster County and possible the Northern Neck.

Mr. Pennell stated that the Northern Neck tends to get lost in comparison with central Virginia. He stated that the goal is to get branded and with these groups coming into the area, it can be a tremendous value.

### **Visions Group**

Mr. Paul Sciacchitano, a representative for the Visions Group, stated that they were not requesting money. He stated that the Visions Group was started around 2006 when the Dupont fund called together some people in the business community to talk about building capacity within the community. He stated that out of those first talks, it was determined that two of the community problems were workforce housing and education. He stated that out of the first meetings, a non-profit organization was created.

Mr. Sciacchitano stated that he was present at the meeting to ask the Authority to participate in Vision's meetings and to partner with them whenever possible.

### **Motions**

Mr. Szyperski moved and Mr. Curry seconded the YouthWorks program request in the amount of \$10,000. The vote was 6-0.

Mr. Pennell moved to offer a contingent \$2500 to be available if the Center for Rural Virginia annual summit is held at The Tides Inn in September and that we approach the legislative representatives about raising the local per diem rate. Mr. Szyperski seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-1.

Mr. Szyperski moved and Mr. Curry seconded the endorsement of the Visions Group. VOTE: 6-0.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Szyperski moved and Mr. Pittman seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012 meeting of the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority. VOTE: 6-0.

### **Finance Report**

Mr. Pennell presented the finance report and stated that the Authority had authorized disbursements at the meeting of \$12,500, which leaves the balance at approximately \$100,000. Mr. Szyperski moved and Mr. Curry seconded a motion to approve the finance report as submitted, pending audit. VOTE: 6-0.

### **Election of Officers**

Mr. Pennell stated that as the County Administrator, he had prepared minutes and performed the paperwork duties for the EDA and was eventually made the Executive Director. He stated that all paperwork and records should be kept in the County Administrator's office. Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Szyperski seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Frank A. Pleva, Lancaster County Administrator, to the position of Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer for the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority. VOTE: 6-0.

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Fleet seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Jeffrey Szyperski to the position of Chairman of the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority. VOTE: 5-0-1 (Mr. Szyperski abstained.)

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Szyperski seconded a motion to reappoint Mr. Alexander Fleet to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority. VOTE: 5-0-1 (Mr. Fleet abstained.)

Mr. Pennell suggested that the Authority meet at least once a year. Mr. Szyperski suggested that they meet more.

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Curry seconded the motion that the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority meet semi-annually in the months of January and June on the third Thursday of the month. VOTE: 6-0.

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Szyperski seconded the motion that the signatories on the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority's checking account be Mr. Fleet, Mr. Szyperski and Mr. Pleva. He stated that on checks that are \$500 or less, there needs to be only one signature. VOTE: 6-0.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Curry seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. VOTE: 6-0.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frank A. Pleva,  
Executive Director