

**Economic Development Authority
Of
Lancaster County, Virginia
At
Chesapeake Bank
Minutes – July 20, 2017**

Members Attending: Chairman Jeff Szyperski, Bill Pennell, Ed Pittman, Joe Curry, Roy Carter, Ronald Davenport and Alex Fleet.

Others Present: Susan Cockrell, Jason Perry, Bill Warren, Carl Smith, Jason Bellows, Frank Pleva, Crystal Whay, Phillip Mumford, Donna Anderson, and Steve Parker.

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

Mr. Szyperski introduced Ronald Davenport as the newest member of the Economic Development Authority.

January 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pennell moved to approve the January 19, 2017 minutes. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion. **VOTE: 7-0.**

Financial Report

Mr. Pleva stated that the balance in the EDA's account as of June 30th was \$144,396.15. He stated that, in a normal year, the EDA gets approximately \$30,000 in administrative fees after expenses.

Mr. Curry asked if there was a minimum balance requirement on the EDA account.

Mr. Szyperski replied that there were no rules on that issue and asked for input.

Mr. Pleva stated that when the EDA organizes again in January something could be included in the by-laws if the EDA members wished.

New Business

Youth Works Program Update

Mr. Szyperki stated that Jason Perry from Rappahannock Community College was present to give the EDA an update on the Youth Works Program. He stated that there was no funding request with this presentation.

Mr. Perry stated that the EDA gave a \$15,000 contribution to the Youth Works Program in 2016. He stated that the program has existed since 2009 and has been an effort between Rappahannock Community College and the Lancaster Community Library. He stated that the program has been for eleventh and twelfth grade students who may have some barriers to employment. He stated that the program helps those students become employment ready with job opportunities and skills. He stated that the final year is this year due to a lack of continuing duPont grant funds, but they hope to bring the program back in 2019 through Rappahannock Community College.

Virginia's River Realm Oyster Tourism Marketing Funding Request

Susan Cockrell, Kilmarnock Assistant Town Manager, stated that the EDA has been instrumental in funding the Virginia Oyster Country effort. She stated that Virginia's River Realm is a larger initiative and is a regional marketing effort that is a partnership of Lancaster County, Middlesex County, the Town of Kilmarnock and the Town of Urbanna. She stated that people will see, with Virginia's River Realm, a larger presence, especially around the oyster and oyster marketing.

Mrs. Cockrell stated that the request is to help them with sustaining Joni Carter's salary. She stated that Joni Carter has been a representative from Lancaster County during the whole process and has come up with many ideas that are now being implemented. She stated that the request is for two years. She stated that the first part is a \$5,000 request for direct marketing for oysters and \$15,000 for the second part, which also includes money for Ms. Carter's salary. She stated that Middlesex and Gloucester will provide matching funds for the marketing request. She stated that their goal is to make this area the epicenter of the oyster world.

Mr. Pennell stated that, in his opinion, this is one of the best endeavors the EDA has been involved in. He made a motion to approve the \$20,000 request over the next two years and allow Mr. Pleva to administer the funds as needed. Mr. Fleet seconded the motion.

VOTE: 7-0.

Boys and Girls Club Funding Request

Donna Anderson, President of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club, stated that she was joined by Phillip Mumford, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director and Steve Parker, Lancaster County School Superintendent.

Ms. Anderson stated that she thought their request was very relevant to the economic well being of the community. She stated that their request was for \$20,000 for two years for a total of \$40,000. She stated that they do not anticipate needing more funding after 2018. She stated that they are undertaking an expansion and upgrade of the existing

facility. She stated that the Boys and Girls Club is going into its tenth year. She stated that the club is busy and on any given day, they average about 130 children served.

Ms. Anderson stated that they are in a well-worn building that does not have a safe entrance or safe fence perimeter. She stated that they want to improve their grounds and have some green space and want to upgrade and improve the structure itself. She stated that they estimate the project at approximately \$1.5 million dollars. She spoke about the advantages of having the Boys and Girls Club in the community.

Steve Parker, the Lancaster County School Superintendent, stated that strong schools lead to economic development and the Boys and Girls Club helps to fill the gaps and supplement what the school is trying to do for the children. He stated that the club helps prepare students for future employment.

Mr. Curry asked what the annual budget was for the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Mumford replied that the current annual budget was \$788,000.

Mr. Curry asked what the budget was for payroll.

Mr. Mumford replied the projected payroll for this year is approximately \$400,000.

Mr. Szyperski stated that he wanted to read a portion of the EDA's by-laws, "the general purpose of the Authority shall be the fostering and stimulating of the development of industry and trade in the County of Lancaster for the general good of its people and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Authority shall have all powers granted to it in its chartering legislation and under the Act, including without limitation, the power to acquire, own, lease and dispose of properties and make loans to the end that it may be able to promote industry and develop trade by inducing manufacturing, industrial, governmental, non-profit and commercial enterprises and institutions of higher education to locate in or remain in the County of Lancaster." He asked if any members had any input on the Boys and Girls Club's request.

Mr. Pennell stated that, in his opinion, the Boys and Girls Club's request affects the County's future workforce, which fits into the EDA's mission. He stated that the workforce is critical and he fully supported the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Pittman made a motion to approve the request from the Boys and Girls Club for \$20,000 for fiscal year 2018 and \$20,000 for fiscal year 2019. Mr. Curry seconded the motion. **VOTE: 6-0, Mr. Davenport abstained from the discussion and vote.**

Lead Northern Neck Funding Request

Bill Warren of Lead Northern Neck stated that their request from the EDA was \$5,000 to help with the costs of this year's program. He stated that Lead Northern Neck is a leadership development program for local citizens. He stated that the program is in its

fifth year and has graduated 114 people. He stated that they ask the participants to pay \$500 each and the program costs approximately \$22,000 per year.

Mr. Pennell made a motion to approve the \$5,000 request for Lead Northern Neck. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. **VOTE: 7-0.**

Save the Rappahannock Coalition Funding Request

Carl Smith, President of the Save the Rappahannock Coalition, stated that his organization was a 501c3 corporation. He stated that the organization was formed two years ago in direct response from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to oppose Dominion Virginia Power's proposal of large transmission towers across the Rappahannock River. He stated that the organization continues to be made up of all volunteers, so no money raised goes to compensate anyone. He gave a history of what has happened with the efforts in the last two years. He discussed the injunctions that were won against Dominion Virginia Power. He stated that the EDA gave his organization a \$20,000 donation last year and they were asking for another \$20,000 this year to help with legal costs. He stated that their argument is that those towers being built will greatly affect the character of the Rappahannock River and the crossing into Lancaster County and thus affect the economy of the area.

Mr. Smith stated, that at the present time, there was an evidentiary hearing in April and he thought they were in a good place. He stated that he thought they would win and thought the SCC would look favorably on their case. He stated that he anticipated the upcoming legal costs to be between \$70,000 and \$80,000.

Jason Bellows, District 3 representative to the Board of Supervisors, thanked the EDA for reviewing the Save the Rappahannock Coalition Funding request. He stated that he thought the request fit with the EDA's mission to promote economic development. He stated that the Norris Bridge is very important to promoting the community and is used many times in the marketing of the area.

Mr. Szyperski stated that he wanted to disclose that he had given a written deposition in the Dominion towers case.

Mr. Pennell stated that he was opposed to the Save the Rappahannock Coalition's request last time and remains opposed. He stated that he did not see it as an economic development issue, but rather an aesthetic issue. He asked why the County could not come up with the \$20,000 that was being requested of the EDA.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had been behind the issue from the beginning. He stated that they did not want to open up the flood gates for every non-profit organization to come to the County for money. He referred to electrical reliability and stated that underground lines' failures are only due to above ground facilities.

Mr. Pennell stated that he was not challenging the electrical lines being underground, but he thought it was time for the Board of Supervisors to step up on this issue.

Mr. Pleva stated that the County has already spent a lot of money on this issue with the County Attorney's involvement. He stated that he could not give exact figures at this time.

Mr. Carter stated that he would like to disclose that while he was not a member of the Save the Rappahannock Coalition, he had attended almost every function they had. He stated that he had seen a huge community effort to try to have the lines go underground. He stated that once the towers are up, there will be no way to mitigate it. He stated that first impressions are very important and they need to consider the aesthetics when people are entering Lancaster County.

Mr. Smith stated that a report from the hearing examiner should be coming out within the next thirty days and then the report will go to the judges at the SCC, who in turn will make their decision and that may take a few more months.

Mr. Curry stated that he thought the EDA and the Board of Supervisors should support the effort.

Mr. Fleet suggested that the EDA write a letter to the Board of Supervisors encouraging them to give some money to the Save the Rappahannock Coalition's efforts.

Mr. Pittman stated that he was opposed to using public money to fund a project like this.

Mr. Curry made a motion to approve the \$20,000 request from the Save the Rappahannock Coalition and Mr. Carter seconded the motion. **VOTE: 5-2.**

ROLL CALL

Mr. Szyperski	Aye
Mr. Pennell	Nay
Mr. Fleet	Aye
Mr. Pittman	Nay
Mr. Carter	Aye
Mr. Davenport	Aye
Mr. Curry	Aye

Other Business

Mr. Pennell stated that his term on the EDA will expire in November and he does not intend on serving again.

Adjournment

Mr. Fleet moved and Mr. Pittman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. **VOTE:**
7-0.