

**Economic Development Authority
Of
Lancaster County, Virginia
At
Chesapeake Bank
Minutes – August 2, 2016**

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

Others Present: Frank Pleva, Executive Director, Paul Sciacchitano, Dan Siegel, Joni Carter, Susan Cockrell, Lindsay Gardner and others.

Mr. Szyperski called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

January 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pennell moved to approve the January 21, 2016 minutes. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Financial Report

Mr. Pleva stated that the bank balance at the end of June was \$99,396.15. He stated that there was approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 outstanding in fees for bonds that have been issued. He stated that \$24,000 of that figure is owed by Lancaster County. He stated that he would work with the County Treasurer to resolve the issue involving the fees that the County still owes. He further stated that he will be getting in touch with the other organizations to remind them of fees that are owed.

Mr. Szyperski asked how much money the hospital owed in fees.

Mr. Pleva replied he thought their balance was approximately \$6,000.

There was a consensus for Dan Siegel of Sands Anderson to send a reminder letter to the hospital.

New Business

Proposed Issuance of a Revenue Bond to Williamsburg Landing, Inc.

Mr. Szyperski asked Dan Siegel of Sands Anderson to explain the public hearing concerning the proposed issuance of a bond to Williamsburg Landing, Inc.

Mr. Siegel stated that Williamsburg Landing, Inc. is borrowing approximately \$40 million dollars from a variety of issuers, including the counties of Lancaster, Northampton, Mathews and the City of Williamsburg. He stated that each locality is being asked to issue up to \$10 million dollars.

Mr. Siegel stated that the bond is expected to be issued in mid to late September.

Mr. Siegel stated that, procedurally, the EDA holds a public hearing to comply with state and federal law and adopts its inducement resolution and then the Board of Supervisors adopts a public approval resolution at its Board meeting, usually in a consent agenda. He stated that once the bond documents are available, the EDA will meet again to approve those documents.

Mr. Szyperski opened the public hearing.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Szyperski closed the public hearing.

Mr. Pennell made a motion to approve the issuance of a revenue bond, not to exceed, \$10 million dollars, by the Economic Development Authority of Lancaster County, Virginia to Williamsburg Landing, Inc. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. **VOTE: 6-0.**

There was discussion to schedule the next meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Visions

Mr. Sciacchitano of Visions stated that there were three presentations from Visions on the EDA's agenda. He stated those items included the YouthWorks Summer Employment Program, the Virginia Oyster Country update and the Economic Development Forum Luncheon that is scheduled for October 27th.

YouthWorks Summer Employment Program Funding Request of \$15,000

Ms. Garder of the Lancaster Community Library stated that the YouthWorks Program began in 2009 as a way for the youth in the area to obtain their first jobs. She stated that they have received grants from the duPont Fund in the past, but next year will be the last year for that funding and RCC is scheduled to adopt this program then. She stated that Northumberland County no longer participates, but Middlesex County has signed on for this year.

Ms. Gardner explained the program and the criteria for the teens to participate in the program. She stated that they continue to have a good track record.

Virginia Oyster Country Update and Funding Request of \$35,000

Ms. Carter of Visions gave a presentation of how the funds that were given by the EDA last year were used for the oyster asset development. She stated that the EDA gave her \$25,000 for her salary and she works on an hourly basis. She stated that the EDA also gave \$5,000 for two years for marketing costs. She stated that the goal is to define Lancaster County as the place to visit, eat, buy and learn about the oyster. She stated that with some of the money, they created Virginia Oyster Country, which consists of Lancaster, Gloucester and Middlesex counties and the Town of Kilmarnock. She also discussed the advertising, participation in festivals, brochures, museum exhibits and other ways they are getting the word out about the oyster.

Ms. Carter showed portions of a film about oysters that will be shown on the local PBS channel in September.

Mrs. Cockrell, Assistant Kilmarnock Town Manager, stated that Virginia Oyster Country is a collaborative effort between Lancaster County, Town of Kilmarnock, Middlesex County and Gloucester. She stated that Ms. Carter has been at the forefront of designing and creating the Oyster Academy as well as the public relations, including the film. She stated that the past funds were to help pay Ms. Carter for her time and the request today is to help her continue to do more of the kind of work she has done to promote the area and the oyster. She stated that they are requesting \$35,000 over a two-year period for Ms. Carter's salary and marketing costs.

Mr. Szyperki asked, if the request was granted, could it be divided into two equal payments of \$17,500.

Ms. Carter replied yes.

Visions' Economic Development Forum Luncheon Sponsorship Request of \$2,000

Mr. Sciacchitano stated that they are in the process of finalizing the details of a community seminar that will be held at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene with a tentative date of October 27th. He stated that their goal for the seminar is to come up with a few big ideas regarding where the County is going with economic development. He stated that he hoped it would lead to a Comprehensive Economic Plan. He stated that the Board of Supervisors has been contacted concerning these plans.

Mr. Sciacchitano stated that the estimate for the seminar is approximately \$18,000. He stated that the speaker's fee is \$10,000. He stated there will also be costs for books and food expenses. He stated they have applied for a \$5,000 grant from the duPont Fund. He stated they have also approached local businesses for help with the costs associated with the seminar. He stated that they are requesting \$2,000 from the Lancaster County EDA.

He stated that the seminar will be open to anyone who wants to attend at a cost of \$25 per person.

Mr. Pennell stated that he had been on the Visions' board, but none of the requests accrue back to his personal wealth, so he will be voting on the requests.

Mr. Pennell suggested that, if the request is granted, that the entire \$35,000 be given at one time for the Oyster Asset Program. He stated that they needed to put the money to work.

Mr. Pennell moved to approve all three requests from Visions-YouthWorks, the Oyster Asset Program and the Economic Development Forum Luncheon. Mr. Curry seconded the motion. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Adjournment

Mr. Pennell moved and Mr. Carter seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Attest: _____
Frank A. Pleva,
Executive Director