

Economic Development Authority of Amherst County Regular Meeting
May 9, 2018; 6 PM

Amherst County Depot Conference Room

MINUTES for MONTHLY MEETING

EDA Board Members Present

C. Kennon, Chair
E. Kinnier, Treasurer
M. Russell (arrived at 7:25pm)
D. Wall
C. Eby
D. Sweeney

EDA Members Absent

M. Heishman, Vice Chair

Youth Participant

Jacob Dalton

Guest

Dick Wynder (IDA Liaison)

I. Call Meeting to Order

C. Kennon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

II. Approval of May Agenda

D. Wall made the motion to accept the May Agenda
2nd: C. Eby
Aye: Unanimous

III. Approval of Minutes for Apr. 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

D. Wall made the motion to accept the Minutes of the April 11, 2018 Regular Meeting.
2nd: C. Eby
Aye: Unanimous

IV. Review of January - March 2018 Financial Report

E. Kinnier made the motion to set aside funds above the amount of the mortgage payment from the Amelon EDA building in a maintenance account.
2nd: C. Eby
Aye: Unanimous

E. Kinnier made the motion to accept January - March 2018 Financial Report as prepared by the County Finance Department subject to an annual audit.

2nd: D. Wall

Aye: Unanimous

V. Hermle Incentive

C. Eby told the EDA board that Hermle's new line 1922 Commercial has taken off and they will be expanding operations with an investment in additional machinery and the possibility of additional employees.

E. Kinnier made the motion that the EDA approve Hermle's application for incentives at the maximum amount for new taxable investment and the subsequent jobs created in accordance with the EDA incentive policy for existing businesses.

2nd: D. Wall

Aye: D. Wall, C. Kennon, E. Kinnier, D. Sweeney

Abstained: C. Eby

VI. Real Estate Commission Policy

The EDA recognizes the region's Real Estate community plays an important role in facilitating commerce in Amherst County. Realtors need to know they will be compensated for the work they do with the EDA. The EDA wants to work with the real estate community to foster more industrial and commercial development in Amherst County.

D. Sweeney made the motion that the EDA adopt a commission of 6% of the selling price before incentives to the selling agent who sells EDA owned land and/or buildings.

2nd: C. Eby

Aye: Unanimous

VII. Committee Updates

C. Eby volunteered to serve on the HR committee.

C. Kennon updated the EDA board on the last meeting of the Rt. 29 Beautification Committee.

VIII. Staff Comments

L. Saunders reported that the EDA wrote a commemorative resolution congratulating CSE on 50 years of being in business. The new County website is live and a

demonstration was shown during the EDA meeting. V. Hanson and several other key officials met with VDOT regarding a commercial entrance for land near the Blue Ridge Regional Jail. Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance hosted a writer for Site Selectors magazine last week, which included a visit with S&S/TruBall. L. Saunders and J. Dalton attended a reception hosted by Sweet Briar College for Centers of Innovation in Technology. The Town and County hosted a Sweet Briar College presentation by President Woo on SBC updates.

IX. Open Discussion

C. Kennon gave an update on the planning commission. Shentel is installing a new cell phone tower on 60E to fill in the service gaps. E. Kinnier reported that Sweet Briar College President Woo came to speak to their Rotary meeting. D. Sweeney talked about the new meadery that located in Lowesville. D. Wynder talked about Central Virginia Electric Co-op putting high speed internet on their electric poles.

X. Closed Session to discuss the Acquisition or Disposition of Real Property and a Prospective New Business

C. Eby made the motion that the Amherst County Economic Development Authority convene in closed session pursuant to the exemption at § 2.2-3711(A)(5) of the Code of Virginia, to also discuss the expansion of an existing business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in expanding its facilities in the community, and to discuss the Acquisition or Disposition of Real Property where discussion in open session would adversely affect the Economic Development Authority's bargaining position and / or negotiating strategy, furthermore to discuss a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating its facilities in the community.

2nd: D. Wall

Aye: Unanimous

C. Eby made the motion that the Amherst County Economic Development Authority come out of closed session.

2nd: D. Wall

Aye: Unanimous

C. Eby made the motion that the Amherst County Economic Development Authority certify by a recorded vote that, to the best of each Authority member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session.

D. Wall: Aye
C. Eby: Aye
C. Kennon: Aye
M. Russell: Aye
E. Kinnier: Aye
D. Sweeney: Aye

XI. Business Friendly Initiative

Staff showed a presentation outline the findings of the Business Friendly Initiative. Due to the length of the presentation, it was decided that members would watch the presentation and get back to V. Hanson with their suggestions.

XII. Adjournment

C. Eby made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.
2nd: D. Wall
Aye: Unanimous

Victoria Hanson, Sec