

Campbell County Economic Development Commission

April 15, 2004

The regular meeting of the Campbell County Economic Development Commission was held on Thursday, April 15, 2004 in the Campbell County Library Conference Room, Rustburg, Virginia. The members present were:

Donald E. Atkins
William E. Calohan, III
Marvin L. Clements
G. Michael Damron

O. Richard Metz, Chairman
William F. Overacre
Kyle S. Rosser
Frank A. Wright

Those absent:
William Anderson
Herbert Guthrie
Lester Wooldridge

Also Present:
J. Michael Davidson, Economic Development Director
R. David Laurell, County Administrator
Jamie Banton, Administrative Aide

Chairman Richard Metz called the meeting to order at 12:07PM. The February 19, 2004 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

For informational purposes, the Commission was provided a Project Updates Report. The items on this report were as follows:

Industrial Prospect Activity: We have a Canadian site visit to the Brookneal Building tentatively scheduled for June. We are providing information on this site to several prospects, and we have received many inquiries since the IDA acquired the property.

Mike Davidson has received several inquiries/requests for information on 10,000 to 25,000 square foot facilities. At this time, we are not aware of any properties that meet this requirement. Also, from comments received from VEDP, prospect activity is increasing.

Tobacco Indemnification Grants: The Tobacco Commission meets May 20, 2004 to approve and announce the 2004 grant awards. The Southside Economic Development Committee should meet in April to make recommendations to the full Commission. Campbell County submitted two grant applications: Brookneal Building (\$200,000) and a median crossover for the Seneca Commerce Park (\$80,000).

Department of Business Assistance Grant: Staff is working to determine the status of the Incubator Feasibility Study project with Virginia Tech. The Tech project manager took a position in Richmond. We do not know how much work has been completed to date. Staff remitted \$10,000 to Virginia Tech in January as payment for this project. Staff has set-up meetings with Virginia Tech staff to discuss the project, and at this time, the final study will not be complete until at least June.

Airport Commerce Park: The Campbell County Industrial Development Authority appointed Malcolm Morris and Vance Driskill to the Project Management Committee. The Lynchburg Industrial Development Authority appointed Bob Clarke and Massie Ware. The first meeting of the Project Management Committee will be held on April 16, 2004.

Seneca Commerce Park: Agreements with VDOT for \$215,000 in Revenue Sharing Funds are complete. We are processing payment to VDOT to perform a State Environmental Review Process (SERP). The SERP will take at least 60-days to complete as there are 26 state agencies that must be notified.

Wiley & Wilson are 90% complete with the expanded construction documentation. Once complete, we will send the construction documents to VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board for approval. We are hopeful we can release the RFP by July 2004.

Mr. Davidson stated that a rezoning request would be brought before the Planning Commission in the next couple of months. The property is zoned A-1, Agricultural, and the request will ask for a rezoning to M-1, Industrial. Mr. Laurell suggested that staff may want to separate the commerce park acreage from the recreational areas with a new plat to prevent any rezoning issues residents along Gough Road may have. Mr. Davidson stated that he would look into the rezoning issue further.

Joint Enterprise Zone Application: No word to date on the status of the applications.

Brookneal-Campbell County Airport Authority: The Brookneal – Campbell County Airport Authority continues to work through issues regarding the hangar structure at the airport. The Authority approved a professional engineering contract with Delta Airport Consultants, Inc., and they have approved the size of the hangar.

// Mr. Davidson explained that the Commission's recommendations on Business Appreciation Week activities were presented to the Community & Economic Development Committee at their March meeting. The CED Committee advised staff to send an appreciation letter to everyone with a Campbell County business license, and to invite the top 50 employers to a luncheon. So that there are fewer government representatives than guests, only the Chair of the Commission has been invited.

Staff printed 3,180 letters for business appreciation week, and the luncheon has been scheduled for May 19, 2004 at Meade Lake. Senator Charles Hawkins will be the guest speaker.

// Mr. Davidson next explained that work on the development of the Airport Commerce Park continues. An inquiry through Region 2000 for a very large project was received, but the process will be competitive. Region 2000 submitted information on the Airport Park for this project.

// Mr. Davidson will attend the Fancy Foods Trade Show in Chicago with VEDP the first few days of May 2004. Region 2000 is covering the cost of the trip.

// Beginning in July and if the proposed budget is approved, staff will begin development of the independent economic development website. Campbell County needs visibility to attract prospects. Mr. Davidson requested feedback from the Commission as to potential domain names. In addition, a logo or brand of the county needs to be developed.

// Lastly, Mr. Laurell stated that he was happy to see those members that attended the appreciation lunch. He thanked the Commission for their support.

Following a general discussion of the before-mentioned matters and with no other items presented for consideration, on a motion of Mr. Clements and seconded by Mr. Adkins, the meeting adjourned at 12:42PM until Thursday, June 17, 2004 at 12:00PM.

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