

Hardee County Economic Development Council/Industrial Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2013
Hardee County BOCC

Jim See- IDA Chairman/EDC Vice Chairman-P	Rick Justice-P	Donald Samuels-P
Vanessa Hernandez- EDC Chairwoman/Vice Chairwoman-P		John O'Neal-P
Dottie Conerly-P	Michael Prescott-P	Lory Durrance-P
Russell Melendy-A	Gene Davis-P	Diana Youmans-P
Doug Jensen-P	Horst Witschonke-P	

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

Gene Davis opened the meeting in prayer.

Visiting: Benny Albritton, Travis Bond, Robert Cole, Consheryl Adams, Michael Flowers, Rhonda Cole, Shawn Okun, Patrick Shanley, Debbie Harrelson, John Schneider, Greg Witt, Dustin Jurman, Doug Knight, Nancy Craft, Stan Pelham, John Davis, Steven Southwell and Johnny Terrel.

County Attorney: Ken Evers

County Commissioners: Mike Thompson, Grady Johnson and Colon Lambert

Press: Michael Kelly

Staff: Bill Lambert, Sarah Pelham, Kristi Schierling, Krystin Chapman and Casey Dickson (Chamber of Commerce Executive Director)

Agenda: There is one change to the agenda. The budget will not be adopted today. That will take place at next month's meeting. Vanessa Hernandez made a motion and was seconded by Doug Jensen to accept the agenda with the change. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Vanessa Hernandez made a motion and was seconded by Mike Prescott to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft RFP for Website Development and Design & Logo Update

Krystin Chapman brought the draft RFP before the Board. It had been reviewed by Attorney Evers and he made just a few changes. Krystin Chapman announced the changes to the Board. She feels that it is time to update our website and our logo since internet presence is very important to businesses. Donald Samuels made a motion and was seconded by Doug Jensen to approve the RFP. Motion passed unanimously.

Retention Pond, Culvert Crossing, Conceptual Development Plan of Commerce Park Expansion John Schneider from Hunter Engineering came before the Board and explained the maps for the expansion of the Commerce Park. The maps are a preliminary layout and the lots are roughly 4-5 acres a piece. Donald Samuels made a motion and was seconded by Doug Jensen for Hunter Engineering to proceed with a formal set of plans with reviews as the process moves along. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on EDA rankings

Director Lambert gave an update on the rankings. The cities of Bowling Green and Zolfo Springs have already ranked the projects. The BoCC has ranked them as well. The spec building was the top choice for the BoCC.

Draft 2013-2014 Budget

Sarah Pelham came before the Board and wanted to know if there were any changes that needed to be made before it is finalized. No Board members noted any changes. Sarah Pelham also is looking for approval to appropriate the additional funds of \$20,000 to cover the budgeted overhead for the next fiscal year related to Tech River.

Doug Jensen made a motion and was seconded by Vanessa Hernandez to approve the appropriated of the \$20,000 to cover the budgeted overhead related to Tech River. Donald Samuels voted no. Motion passed.

PfMan

Shawn Okun was here today to update the Board on all of his progress. The building is coming along. The plant manager has also moved to Hardee County. They are looking to hire locally as well as globally. According to Shawn Okun, he is ahead in sales.

Continuum Labs update

As per contract, Travis Bond gave his monthly update to the Board. The Caresync app is now available on Android. Travis Bond is still meeting with Venture Capitalists and will be meeting with a Hedge Fund later in the week.

IDA FRBA Rapid shared costs discussion

Steven Southwell came before the Board representing Rapid Systems. Background was given as to why Rapid is coming before the Board. Rapid Systems took over costs of the broadband network when FRBA sent a letter stating that they had 30 days to find another carrier. If Rapid Systems had not acted, the broadband fiber conduit would have been cut off in the County. Since Rapid Systems took over the unexpected expenses, they have come today to ask if we could share in the paying of the expenses.

The original Hardee Broadband system was designed with a 400 megabyte broadband supply via microwave from Riverview. With the anticipated needs of FRBA, the broadband supply was increased to 1.2 gigabytes and was sourced from the ILA POP at Ona. The issue for consideration centered around the sharing of costs that occurred as a result of the increase in system capacity that had been expected to be paid for by FRBA.

Donald Samuels made a motion and was seconded by Doug Jensen to deny the sharing of the costs. A roll call vote was taken. The results were 3-4. Motion did not pass by the majority.

Votes were as follows:

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|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| G. Davis-Abstained | V. Hernandez- No | D. Conerly-No |
| D. Samuels- Yay | H. Witschonke- Yay | D. Youmans- No |
| L. Durrance- Abstained | M. Prescott-No | |
| J. See- Abstained | D. Jensen- Yay | |

A motion was made by Vanessa Hernandez and seconded by Mike Prescott to fund the \$127,878 to Rapid Systems with the understanding that they would attempt to collect and reimburse us through

their litigation process. A roll call vote was taken. The results were 5-2 in favor of the funding. Motion passed.

Votes were as follows:

G. Davis-Abstained

V. Hernandez-Yay

D. Conerly-Yay

D. Samuels- No

H. Witschonke- No

D. Youmans- Yay

L. Durrance- Abstained

M. Prescott-Yay

J. See- Abstained

D. Jensen- Yay

*Rick Justice had to leave at noon and was not available for the voting.

Financial Report

Sarah Pelham reviewed the financials for the EDC and the IDA with the Board.

Doug Jensen made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to accept both sets of financials.

Motion passed unanimously.

Lory Durrance made a motion and Mike Prescott seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm.