

Hardee County Economic Development Council/Industrial Development Authority
Special Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2014
Hardee County BOCC

Vanessa Hernandez- Chair-P

John O'Neal-P

Dottie Conerly-P

Jim See -P

Donald Samuels-P

Horst Witschonke-P

Michael Prescott-P

Gene Davis-P

Doug Jensen-A

Monica Reas-P

Lory Durrance-A

Diana Youmans-A

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Visiting: Robert Cole, Rhonda Cole, Frank Kirkland, Pam Belflower, Bob Belflower, Benny Albritton, Randy Dey, Melissa Hayes, Don Chancey, Stan Pelham, Mary Jane Stanley, Angela Crist, Paul Scheuren via phone, Lex Albritton, Russ Melendy, Travis Bond and Scott Tapin.

County Attorney: Ken Evers

County Commissioners: Mike Thompson, Sue Birge, Rick Knight and Colon Lambert

Press: Michael Kelly

Staff: Bill Lambert, Sarah Pelham, Kristi Schierling and Krystin Chapman

Agenda: Gene Davis made a motion to approve the agenda. Dottie Conerly seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

USF FIOG Economic Impact Study

Mary Jane Stanley and Angela Crist, from USF FIOG, were here along with Paul Scheuren, via phone from Impact DataSource, to review the report that was completed. The time frame of this report was 2006-2011 and was about the economic and fiscal impacts of the IDA's economic activities. The total economic output that was reported was \$161,275,057 and the total of direct permanent jobs created was 133. The full report is on file at the Economic Development office. The report has been accepted by the Board.

Modification of Contract for Professional Engineering Services

Director Lambert received a proposal from Hunter Engineering for the hiring of a subcontractor for the impact of the Commerce Park expansion. This subcontractor will attend Planning and Zoning meetings as well to provide expert testimony if needed. The rate is \$150/hr and the report is estimated to take 15-20 hours. This should only be about \$3500. The next P&Z meeting is in April, so this gives us time to get a great report together.

Mike Prescott made a motion and was seconded by Dottie Conerly to allow Director Lambert to spend up to \$5000. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Rules of Procedure Manual

The manual that Kristi Schierling put together was reviewed. Comments and suggestions were made. Staff will come back next month with a more formal copy for approval.

Continuum Labs

Travis Bond was here to give an update to the Board. An initial capital closing is expected this week. A second amendment was proposed to the Board for consideration. Jobs would be increased to 36 by 9/30/14 and 40 by 5/15/15. All would be full time jobs. The amendment proposed in October of this year, begin paying Tech River pro-rata operating expenses and in July of 2015, begin paying pro-rata operating expenses and rent. Continuum Labs will self-fund with \$3M by September 30, 2014 and \$2M by June 30, 2015. The IDA contributions in the proposed amendments state that they IDA contribute \$1M by October 10, 2014 after the verification of the \$3M by agreed to procedures and another \$1M by May 30, 2015 after verification of the \$2M by agreed to procedures.

Jim See made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas for Director Lambert to draw up a contract to be brought back before the Board. Motion passed. A roll call vote was requested.

Gene Davis- Yes

Donald Samuels- No

Jim See- Yes

Horst Witschonke- No

Monica Reas- Yes

Mike Prescott-Yes

Dottie Conerly-Yes

John O'Neal-Yes

Vanessa Hernandez- Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm by Chair Hernandez.