

Hardee County Economic Development Council/Industrial Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2014
Hardee County BOCC

Vanessa Hernandez- Chair-A

John O'Neal-A

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-P

Diana Youmans-A

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Attorney Evers.

Visiting: Robert Cole, Rhonda Cole, Charlie Cox, Benny Albritton, Randy Dey, Melissa Hayes, Ernie Ziglar, Lex Albritton, Scott Tappin, Michael Flowers, Stan Pelham, Wendell Cotton, Frank Kirkland, Russ Melendy and Casey Dickson.

County Attorney: Ken Evers

County Commissioners: Mike Thompson, Grady Johnson, Sue Birge and Colon Lambert

Press: Michael Kelly

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

Attorney Evers opening the meeting by asking for nominations for a temporary Chair. Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas for Jim See to be the temporary Chair for this meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda: Attorney Evers asked that the Board to not review the Rules of Procedure until the next meeting since he had some changes that he wanted to make.

Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas to approve the agenda with the change to not review the Rules of Procedure. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: A motion was made by Gene Davis and seconded by Dottie Conerly to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Continuum Labs

Attorney Evers reviewed the draft page by page with the Board. Discussion was held. After all comments and discussion was had, Attorney Evers noted to the Board that he will bring back a revised contract with section 7 being changed related to all the feedback he received. The chart and language will be changed to reflect the Board's wishes.

Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas to continue this meeting on April 1, 2014 to further discuss this grant award agreement. The meeting will be held in the Hardee County Utilities Department at 8:30am. Motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates

Construction of the Incubator will begin very soon. Jim Stein has been hired through Career Source as the building manager. Director Lambert noted that we would be utilizing a consultant for the marketing, writing a job description for the permanent position and writing rules and procedures. Also met with an Incubator specialist and believe he will be a great resource.

Site work for Florikan is continuing. A groundbreaking is being planned for April 8th. An open house for PFMan may also be done on the same day, depending on time.
The retention pond phase 1 has been completed through excavation.
The staff report for the Commerce Park expansion has been completed. Has met with the appraiser and will have a report soon.
Fort Green LNG has had a ramp up of activity.
Bionitrogen has reported progress and is looking at other sites in other counties.
PFMan engine components are coming in.
Specific proposals related to spec building 4 will be given in April's meeting.
EDA presentations will also be given in April's meeting.
Earth moving has begun for Lot 13.

Financial Report

Sarah Pelham announced to the Board that we only received one bid submission for the RFP for Accounting Services. The bid was from Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co.
Donald Samuels made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to approve and enter into contract with Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co. Motion passed unanimously.

Sarah Pelham reviewed the EDC and IDA financials from the previous month.
A motion was made by Mike Prescott and seconded by Lory Durrance to approve the EDC and IDA financials. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements/Other Business/Public Comment

Since Russ Melendy resigned from the Board a new Vice Chair needs to be elected. Temporary Chair Jim See opened for nominations. Horst Witschonke nominated Gene Davis for Vice Chair. Mike Prescott seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made.
Gene Davis is now the Vice Chair.

*Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am by a motion from Monica Reas and a second by Mike Prescott.