

Hardee County Economic Development Council/Industrial Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2014
Hardee County BOCC

Vanessa Hernandez- Chair-P
Gene Davis- Vice Chair-P
Dottie Conerly-P
Jim See -P

Donald Samuels-P
John O'Neal-P
Michael Prescott-P
Diana Youmans-P

Doug Jensen-P
Monica Reas-P
Lory Durrance-P

The meeting was called to order at 1:20pm by Chair Hernandez. The meeting started late due to technical difficulties.

Visiting: Robert Cole, Rhonda Cole, Randy Dey, Melissa Hayes, Benny Albritton, Charlie Cox, Horst Witschonke, Frank Kirkland, Alma Albritton, Lex Albritton, Henry Kuhlman, Kristin Giuliani, Stan Pelham, Kenny Lambert, Maria Witschonke and Dan Graham

County Attorney: Ken Evers

County Commissioners: Mike Thompson, Russ Melendy and Sue Birge

Press: Michael Kelly

Staff: Sarah Pelham and Kristi Schierling

Agenda: Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Jim See made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Continuum Labs examination update

The examination should be presented at next month's Board meeting or a special meeting may be called. CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) is still working on the examination and receiving documentation from Continuum Labs as of yesterday. It has not passed the internal quality control. The documents and information that Continuum Labs has supplied CLA has been very extensive and detailed. Chair Hernandez said that she had spoken with Continuum and was told that 7 new people have been hired and another 9 have offer letters. Continuum Labs is also looking to hire an additional 5 by the end of the year. All of these hires are Hardee County hires. The average wage for their full time positions is \$31,000. A question was asked about the fee for CLA conducting this examination. Sarah Pelham said that CLA is not looking to come back to the Board to increase the price of the contract.

Incubator Manager RFP

Sarah Pelham is seeking a motion from the Board to authorize staff to develop an RFP for an Incubator Manager along with legal and board review before it is advertised. Once approved it will be advertised on Demand Star and also locally. The IDA Board will determine who the Incubator Manager is. Depending on the number of applications received, staff along with the Chair will narrow down the selection to bring back before the Board.

Donald Samuels made a motion and was seconded by Doug Jensen to authorize staff to develop an RFP for and Incubator Manager along with legal and board review. Motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates

Incubator-Halfacre will begin soliciting bids for the exterior of the building. SOP's are near completion and once they are, the license can be applied for. The FDA will have to sign off on them.

Delcom- Still in communications with them and they are still working with their investors.

Commerce Park Expansion- The lawsuit is still pending.

Florikan- A majority of the concrete slab has been poured and pieces of the metal building are starting to arrive.

Continuum Labs- Nothing new to report other than what was said under the Continuum Labs examination update.

Fort Green LNG- Still meet on a regular basis with them. They are not seeking any type of incentive from the IDA. Sarah Pelham is helping them with the Enterprise Zone.

PFMan- Continuing to move forward. They are looking for residences for their employees that are moving here.

Auditor General- Still answering questions for them.

Financial Audit- CLA has been in the office for a little over a week and just finished yesterday doing their field work.

Water/Sewer- More surveys have been sent in. Those have been sent to Mr. Terry, Wauchula City Manager, for review.

Financial Report

Charlie Cox, accountant with Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co., reviewed the EDC and IDA financials from the previous month.

A motion was made by Gene Davis and seconded by Lory Durrance to approve the EDC and the IDA financials. Motion passed unanimously.

Charlie Cox then reviewed the general fund budget amendments for FYE 2014. These had been previously approved by the Board throughout the year. He is just cleaning up the budget to reflect these changes. These amendments are on file at the EDO office.

Mike Prescott made a motion and was seconded by Dottie Conerly to approve the general fund budget amendments for FYE 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

The amendments for FYE 2014 for the special revenue fund were reviewed next. These had also been approved throughout the year and the budget is being changed to reflect them. These amendments are on file at the EDO office.

Jim See made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to approve the special revenue fund budget amendments for FYE 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

Charlie Cox then moved on to the budget amendments for FYE 2015 for the general fund. These amendments were to clean up the budget that was presented and approved by the board for fiscal year 2014-2015. These amendments are on file at the EDO office.

Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Doug Jensen to approve the budget amendments for FYE 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

A budget amendment was also presented to the board for the special revenue fund. At last month's meeting, JDC Phosphates was here with a presentation requesting that the Board allocate \$200,000. Director Lambert said at that meeting that a budget amendment would be presented to the board for approval at November's meeting. There were some members of the Board that were unable to recall what exactly the funds would be used for and if a plant would be built in Hardee County.

Jim See made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to table this budget amendment and to go back and see what was said about a plant being built in Hardee County. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements/Other Business

Doug Jensen has asked if staff would look at ordering name plates for the Board members so people in the audience and any guests will know who is who.

*Meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm by Chair Hernandez.