

Hardee County Economic Development Council/Industrial Development Authority
Special Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2015
Hardee County BOCC

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

Donald Samuels-P
John O'Neal-P
Lory Durrance-P

Diana Youmans-A
Monica Reas-P

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hernandez.

Visiting: Marie Lambert, Jim See, Lex Albritton, Autumn Blum, Vanessa Thomas, Travis Bond, Terry Atchley, Lavon Cobb, Kenny Lambert, Pam Belflower, Rhonda Cole, Grady Johnson and Eddie Davis.

County Attorney: Ken Evers

County Commissioners: Mike Thompson, Sue Birge, Colon Lambert and Russ Melendy

Press: Michael Kelly

Staff: Bill Lambert, Sarah Pelham and Kristi Schierling

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

Election of Officers

We elect officers on an annual basis. Attorney Evers opened for Chair nominations. Donald Samuels motioned for Gene Davis to be Chair. Gene Davis declined the nomination. Donald Samuels rescinded his motion. John O'Neal made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to nominate Vanessa Hernandez for Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Gene Davis made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas to cease Chair nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Dottie Conerly made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas to elect Vanessa Hernandez as Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Evers now opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

John O'Neal made a motion and was seconded by Dottie Conerly to nominate Gene Davis as Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Monica Reas made a motion and was seconded by Lory Durrance to cease nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Monica Reas made a motion and was seconded by Dottie Conerly to elect Gene Davis as Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Stream2Sea & Debut Development presentations

Autumn Blum, Stream2Sea, and Vanessa Thomas, Debut Development, were here today to present to the Board.

Stream2Sea launched their product line at the end of July 2015. Products can be purchased on their website, stream2sea.com. Wholesaler accounts are being established with nationwide retailers. Autumn Blum states that demand will exceed production in the next 6-8 months. Stream2Sea currently has 5

positions and currently has additional positions open. Stream2Sea was interviewed with Eckerd College for Channel 8 to spotlight their aquatic toxicity testing. Autumn Blum has also started Innovation Pack & Ship and currently has a posted position for a store manager and should be open to the public next week. Stream2Sea employees attended their first trade show in Salt Lake City and have more coming up in the next few months. They also attended different events to get their name and products in the marketplace. Samples were given in gift bags at these events.

Debut Development have filled for five customers this quarter, of which 3 were established businesses and 2 were new businesses. They have customers in the development stage and are in communications with other businesses. Debut Development has 4 full time employees that all have cosmetic manufacturing experience and live in Hardee County. There are 2 positions open at this time for additional staff. The fill line website is expected to go live November 1. The fill line will also be adding sales and marketing strategy development to their list of services that is offered. There are some needs for the fill line. Some of the equipment needs are: induction sealer, bag sealer, sample/packet sealer and a tube filler.

Acknowledge receipt of letter of Intent from Florida Hospital

Florida Hospital has sent a letter of intent (LOI). We typically use LOI's to produce a contract. We had already produced a contract and it has been sent to both the City of Wauchula and Florida Hospital for their review. Director Lambert's question is should we execute the LOI even though we already have draft contracts and prefers not to execute it. Attorney Evers believes that they sent the LOI because they had stated that they would in a previous board meeting. LOI's are not enforceable or binding. We should add a line to the LOI that says something along the lines of "this becomes null and void once a contract is executed"

Lory Durrance made a motion and was seconded by Monica Reas to acknowledge receipt of the LOI and to continue contract negotiations. Motion passed unanimously.

Donald Samuels prefers not to take possession of the old hospital. He says it is a big mistake.

Break from 2:01-2:10pm

Project Updates

Travis Bond, CEO Caresync, was here with an announcement and update for the board. This past Friday, Caresync closed an additional \$18M in series B funding which will enable the company to further expand its Hardee based service center. The investment was led by Merck and other participants include Greycroft Partners and Harbert Venture Partners and all Series A investors participated in the Series B round. Caresync will use the funding in part to add several hundred jobs to the area. They hire about 10 people a week and have recruiters going around. Hardee County payroll for 2015 was over \$2M and will rise significantly in 2016. They have also created a Certified Nursing Assistant class as part of their training and certification process. Caresync is running 3 shifts at TechRiver currently. Travis Bond thanked the Board for believing in him and this company.

Florikan's grand opening is on October 21st.

Director Lambert will see about Shawn Okun (PFM) coming back to the board with an update. The Mobo/Southeast Steel building phase 1 came back saying that nothing was found but did recommend doing a phase 2 because a septic tank is located on the property. The Board did not see that a phase 2 would be necessary because a septic tank is on the property. We will go ahead and close on the property without the phase 2.

Announcements

The minutes and financials for September will be reviewed at the next meeting that will be held on November 3rd or 10th.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm by Chair Hernandez.