

HARDEE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
(INDEPENDENT BOARD)
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
412 WEST ORANGE STREET, ROOM 102
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 8:30 A.M.

MINUTES

Members:

David Royal, Vice-Chairman, P	Bridget Merrill, A
Bill Beattie, P	Perry Knight, P
Paul Samuels, P	Bill Lambert, Chairman, P
Vanessa Hernandez, P	Bobby Smith, P
Roger Hood, P	

County Attorney Ken Evers, P County Manager Lexton H. Albritton, Jr., P
Office Manager Sandy Meeks, P

Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

MOTION by Samuels, second by Hernandez to approve the agenda with the addition of Item VIII. Open Discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION by Hood, second by Smith to approve the August 25, 2009, regular meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- I. Acknowledge receipt of the Clerk's Financial Report for period ending 08/31/09.

MOTION by Samuels, second by Royal to acknowledge receipt of the Clerk's Financial Report for period ending 08/31/09. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- II. Request approval of amended EDA Grant Award Agreement.

Chairman Lambert touched on how at the last meeting the board agreed to amend the agreement to allow the County Manager more flexibility in approving change orders and the language was drafted by the County Attorney and added to the agreement under Section 5.1. **MOTION by Samuels, second by Hernandez** to approve Section 5.1 of the EDA Grant Award Agreement. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- III. Request approval and authorization for Chairman to sign agreement with the Industrial Development Authority for the Spec Building at the Commerce Park.

Chairman Lambert briefly touched on the two scenarios regarding the Spec Building at the Commerce Park. He explained the first scenario involved a "build to suit" situation on Lots 16 & 17 of the Commerce Park. He further explained if this scenario did not work, they would follow their original objective, but would not be using Lots 16 & 17. **MOTION by Royal, second by Samuels** to approve and authorization for Chairman to sign agreement with the Industrial Development Authority for the Spec Building at the Commerce Park. **Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Request approval of budget for FY 2009/2010.

Hernandez asked about the Total Capital Projects and if that figure was the total amount of the current projects. County Manager explained it was. **MOTION by Knight, second by Smith** to approve the budget for FY 2009/10. **Motion carried unanimously.**

V. Acknowledge receipt of budget amendment forms for FY 2008/2009.

MOTION by Hernandez, second by Smith to acknowledge receipt of budget amendment forms for FY 2008/2009. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. Motion to rescind the IDA Contract in the amount of \$526,290 for the Hardee County Commerce Park Expansion and return money to the Economic Development Authority.

MOTION by Royal, second by Hernandez to rescind the IDA Contract in the amount of \$526,290 for the Hardee County Commerce Park Expansion and return money to the Economic Development Authority. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VII. Discuss next meeting date.

The Board agreed to have the next meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2009.

VIII. Open Discussion.

Chairman Lambert explained he wanted to go back and revisit the status and philosophy of the EDA money and how certain aspects of the bill were going to be reopened. He explained how he felt they had a void in their process and they were not developing a process where they were effectively applying and spending the money. Royal agreed and touched on how they needed to create jobs. Samuels suggested changing the language of the local bill. Hernandez suggested they change their application to outline what the Board wanted. Chairman Lambert touched on each of the applications the Board accepts and advised he felt the Job Creation Application needed further clarification. He went on to state he was perplexed on how they could effectively spend the money that they had not spent in order to make sure the Broadband Project became a reality. He explained he was not sure if they would need any funds but could he use an EDA Grant to compel one of the several companies that had applied for grants or loans to go ahead and put infrastructure in.

He added it would be infrastructure available to everyone, but not public infrastructure. County Manager Albritton advised telecommunications was a defined item within the severance tax statute and the EDA Board, but the question would be what part would be public. He went on to explain he did not know the realm of authority to set money aside for telecommunications. He went on to discuss how spec buildings were recognized as good tools for economic development. Chairman Lambert asked if they felt their rules were sufficient enough now to use the facilities tool in their arsenal of recruitment or should they promulgate a subsection under infrastructure that related to facilities that began to generalize some parameters so that they could have a way to expend the money then its set in the document or should they just leave alone. Hernandez suggested they have a workshop to discuss all the issues. County Attorney Evers advised he felt their long term solution would be to amend the local bill. He explained he could come up with a few paragraphs to allow the Board more freedom. Chairman Lambert suggested they have a workshop prior to the Legislative Delegation meeting. He asked the Board if they wanted

to form a committee. Samuels suggested having the County Attorney draft the language and bring back to them. County Attorney Evers advised he could do that with just a few paragraphs. Chairman Lambert also touched on the Mosaic Agreement money. After further discussion, the Board agreed to have a meeting on October 20th to review the changes drafted by the County Attorney to the local bill.

Chairman Dale Johnson, Hardee County Board of County Commissioner, applauded the Board's efforts and stressed how important it was to create jobs. Commissioner Terry Atchley also applauded the Board and their efforts to create jobs.

Meeting adjourned at 09:35 a.m.

William R. Lambert, Jr., Chairman