

HARDEE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
(INDEPENDENT BOARD)
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
412 WEST ORANGE STREET, ROOM 102
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873
FEBRUARY 02, 2010 8:30 A.M.

MINUTES

Members:

David Royal, Vice-Chairman, A
Bill Beattie, P
Paul Samuels, P
Vanessa Hernandez, P
Roger Hood, P

Bridget Merrill, P
Perry Knight, P
Bill Lambert, Chairman, P
Bobby Smith, P

County Attorney Ken Evers, P
Office Manager Sandy Meeks, P

County Manager Lexton H. Albritton, Jr., P

Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MOTION by Knight, second by Smith to approve the agenda with additions of I. (a) Report from County Attorney on pending legislative changes and I. (b) Report on the non-bricks and mortar application. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION by Hood, second by Merrill to approve the October 20, 2009, regular meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- I. (a). Report from County Attorney on pending legislative changes.

Chairman Lambert advised the County Attorney would give a report on the status of the legislative changes regarding the local bill and how he was not sure if these changes impacted the statute. County Attorney Evers advised that at the last meeting they had discussed potential amendments to the local bill and Florida Statute, but decided the best approach was not to request any changes to the statute unless it was being opened for the purpose of dealing with the sun setting of a local provision. He also advised how he did not have a status of this bill. He went on to explain that for the local bill, the changes had been submitted to Representative Troutman's office and there have been communications with his legislative assistant, Andrea Bass, that the bill was being prepared. He further explained, as a requirement, there would be a notice in the local newspaper on Thursday. Chairman Lambert explained the changes to the Local Bill were just formalities and that Representative Troutman concurred they should do the changes.

- I. (b). Report on the non-bricks and mortar application.

Chairman Lambert advised the application that had been discussed at their last meeting had not been completed and how more time would be needed, but they would get it done.

- I. (c). Acknowledge receipt of Clerks Financial Report for periods ending 09/30/09, 10/31/09, 11/30/09, & 12/31/09.

Chairman Lambert advised for the minutes to reflect the Board acknowledged receipt.

- II. Acknowledge receipt of Commencement Documentation from the City of Wauchula for the Electric Substation Project.

Chairman Lambert asked Olivia Minshew, City of Wauchula, Director of Community Development if she would like to address the Board. Ms. Minshew advised the project was moving forward and the documentation provided was a requirement of the Grant Award Agreement. Chairman Lambert advised for the minutes to reflect the Board acknowledged receipt.

- III. Acknowledge receipt of Project Status Reports from the City of Wauchula and the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners.

County Manager Albritton advised the County's project was moving forward. Chairman Lambert advised for the minutes to reflect the Board acknowledged receipt.

- IV. Discuss Heartland Property Insurance Grant.

Chairman Lambert advised he had a release from Heartland Property Insurance and asked if Mr. Joe Albritton or Mr. Derren Bryan would like to address the Board. Mr. Joe Albritton, Heartland Property Insurance, advised there were a lot of issues with his project and the county needed the money immediately and their process was taking awhile. He thanked everyone for their cooperation and advised they would reapply at a later date. Chairman Lambert advised he wanted to thank them for releasing the funds back and for their cooperation.

- V. Request approval and authorization for Chairman to sign Modification Number 2 with the City of Wauchula for the Harvest Aviation Project extending the agreement for an additional six month period.

Ms. Olivia Minshew, City of Wauchula, Director of Community Development advised there were some issues still being worked out with the Hardee County Fire Rescue Department on the fire alarm suppression. **MOTION by Hernandez, second by Smith** to approve and authorization for Chairman to sign Modification Number 2 with the City of Wauchula for the Harvest Aviation Project extending the agreement for an additional six month period. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- VI. Request approval and authorization for Chairman to sign Modification Number 1 with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners for the Hardee County Wauchula Hills Plant Water and Wastewater Capacity Expansion Project (Pt.2) extending the agreement for an additional nine month period.

County Manager Albritton advised the project was moving forward. **MOTION by Knight, second by Beattie** to approve and authorization for Chairman to sign Modification Number 1 with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners for the Hardee County Wauchula Hills Plant Water and Wastewater Capacity Expansion Project (Pt.2) extending the agreement for an additional nine month period. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Lambert asked what the status was of the Vandolah Grant. County Manager Albritton advised he would need to get some more information and they may end up releasing the money back to the EDA.

- VII. Request approval and authorization for Chairman to sign Engagement Letter with The NCT Group CPA's for the audit for year ending 09/30/09.

MOTION by Samuels, second by Hernandez to approve and authorization for Chairman to sign Engagement Letter with The NCT Group CPA's for the audit for year ending 09/30/09. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- VIII. Acknowledge receipt of the ranking sheets provided by the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners, City of Bowling Green, and the Town of Zolfo Springs.

Chairman Lambert advised ranking sheets were provided by the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners, City of Bowling Green, and the Town of Zolfo Springs. The City of Wauchula did not provide a ranking sheet. Chairman Lambert then explained the ranking process.

- IX. Grant application presentation by Town of Zolfo Springs.

Linder Roberson, Town Manager, Town of Zolfo Springs explained the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) wanted them to expand their Wet Weather Storage for their spray field. She went on to explain how any amount the Board could fund for this project would help. She touched on how the funds would be used as matching funds for the Community Development Block Grant. She also advised that at the last meeting it was discussed about Zolfo Springs working with the City of Wauchula on their wastewater and she explained they did discuss this and it would end up being double the cost. Knight asked if DEP had given them a deadline on their increase in capacity. Ms. Roberson advised they had not given one at this time.

- X. Grant application presentation by the Industrial Development Authority. (Broadband)

Dustin Jurman, CEO, Rapid Systems introduced Mike Dorman, Regional Sales Manager Southeast, Motorola, Inc., and Bob Miscavage, Independent Grants Writer/Consultant. Mr. Jurman presented a power point presentation on the Broadband Project. He explained who Rapid Systems was, their customers, their proposed network infrastructure, goals of the Hardee County Broadband Project, and the changes to the original plan involving Motorola's new WiMax product. After the power point presentation, Chairman Lambert explained he first started working on this when the Broadband Stimulus Grant Application idea came out from the Federal Government. He worked with Mr. Miscavage and a company called Hameltronics to see how they could make this work in Hardee County, but later decided Rapid Systems would be a better fit for Hardee County. He went on to advise the Board that they had some issues they needed to consider today if they decided to fund this project with EDA money. He advised there was a pending Federal Stimulus Grant and asked Mr. Miscavage if he would like to address the Board regarding this. Mr. Miscavage advised they found out they were denied the stimulus grant, but was not given the reason why and was advised it would take five to six days to get a response back as to why they were denied. Chairman Lambert further explained how the FHREDI application was also denied and touched on the meaning of the middle and last mile. Merril advised how most counties did not receive a reason why they were denied and round two funding would begin March 15th and everyone denied was encouraged to submit again. She also asked during the presentation,

she understood the last mile would tie into the proposed Hardee County Broadband System and if this was correct, since the federal funds were not available would that jeopardize the project. Mr. Miscavage advised this was a last mile project. Hood asked if they could touch on the infrastructure. Chairman Lambert advised for Mr. Jurman to discuss how they were bringing the technology to Hardee County with redundancy and how they would disburse it throughout the county. Mr. Jurman explained how Rapid Systems already had a network surrounding the county and they were planning on make a couple of extensions from their existing network into Hardee County which would then be their middle mile. Hood asked who would own the infrastructure and maintain it. Chairman Lambert advised the infrastructure grant would go to the Industrial Development Authority, but they had some unresolved issues with Rapid Systems on this. He advised the IDA did not want the infrastructure and they would like to find some way to ultimately convey the infrastructure to Rapid Systems. Merrill advised there was a Jobs Creation Application attached to Infrastructure Application and wanted to know if that was a request for additional funds. Chairman Lambert advised they completed a Joint Application just as a supplementary to the Infrastructure Application. Hood asked if the ten jobs created would be locally hired or trained from other areas. Mr. Jurman advised they would be local hires, but trained from the Tampa facility. Hood asked about long term sustainability. Mr. Jurman advised there was a tremendous amount of need for their service. Hood asked how long they would stay in Hardee County. Mr. Miscavage advised the two million dollars was not the total cost of the project and advised Rapid Systems was investing one million dollars in the project and touched on how they believe the project was sustainable. Donald Samuels, Hardee County Citizen, asked how long the \$20 prices quoted would be good for. Mr. Jurman advised he would need to confirm, but three to five years. Mr. Samuels then asked questions about the poles, generators, and batteries. Chairman Lambert touched on how important broadband was for the county. Merrill advised that businesses she works with that are looking at Florida assume that broadband will be available. She went on to explain that the application stressed the need for the \$20.00 plan for farm labor housing and education. She asked if there was a plan to connect the infrastructure piece to the education piece to the jobs piece because she wasn't sure the farm workers would be able to afford the \$20.00. Chairman Lambert advised one of their problems from the time they filed the application was not knowing the status of the stimulus money and if they were going to be in primary or supplementary funding role. He went on to explain that they learned during the meeting they would be in a primary funding role. He further advised he would like to be able to fund that, but he cannot confirm that they will be able to. Hernandez asked how many customers they would need for long term sustainability. Mr. Jurman advised he could get the numbers for her after the meeting. Chairman Lambert advised he believed it was around 20%. Hernandez also asked how long it would take to recoup their investment. Mr. Jurman explained within 2.5 years. Mr. Miscavage advised the project was sustainable. Merrill asked if the two million dollars mentioned in the application was still being invested in Hardee County by the private entity or would it be used outside Hardee County for the connections. Mr. Jurman explained that most of the investment would be in Hardee County, but some of the equipment would exist out of the county. Samuels asked about their timeline for the project. Mr. Jurman explained their original proposal was to actually have the project complete within six months. Chairman Lambert explained that the grant would be going to the Industrial Development Authority.

XI. Grant application presentation by the Industrial Development Authority. (Spec Building)

Chairman Lambert advised everyone should have a copy of the first page of the appraisal on the building. He went on to explain the appraisal was for \$730,000, so his request would be reduced to that. He further explained the site was ready to market and the owner had agreed to sell the property at the appraised value. Merrill asked if he could connect the dots with this application and the grant application that was awarded previously. Chairman Lambert explained the grant application that was awarded last cycle was for a building that was already being built and will be occupied by June 2010 by Nutritional Health Laboratories. He further explained how Tab 1 of the application was irrelevant now. Chairman Lambert asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Samuels asked if the Pippin Brothers were going to make a presentation. Chairman Lambert advised they would not be making a presentation.

Mr. Donald Samuels, Citizen, asked Rapid Systems where the poles would be located for their project. County Manager Albritton advised as part of the county's in-kind portion they agreed to allow for the poles to be located on county right of way.

Chairman Lambert then went over the rankings received from the Town of Zolfo Springs and the Board of County Commissioners. Chairman Lambert then asked the Board Members they could either set Pippin Brothers application aside or consider it. **MOTION by Knight, second by Hernandez** to set aside the Pippin Brothers application until more information was received. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Lambert advised since Vice Chairman Royal was absent and he was a presenter he would turn the meeting over to the County Attorney. County Attorney Evers touched on the process and advised they had \$2.79 million available and opened the floor for discussion. Merrill asked Ms. Roberson, Town of Zolfo Springs what the timing would be between Phase I & II of their project. Ms. Roberson advised she was planning on completing Phase II through the USDA. County Attorney Evers explained since there wasn't enough money to fund all the projects, they needed to be sure their motion stated at what level they were funding. **MOTION by Samuels, second by Hernandez** to fund the Industrial Development Authority Broadband for \$2,000,000 and the Industrial Development Authority Spec Building for \$730,000. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hernandez stated that at the last funding cycle they funded the Industrial Development Authority for a Spec Building and from her understanding that has been the only successful recruitment of a new business. Hood asked Ms. Roberson if any amount of money would assist her. She advised any funds would be helpful. **MOTION by Hood, second by Knight** to fund the Town of Zolfo Springs the remaining funds. **Motion carried unanimously.** Merrill advised Ms. Roberson that the Town of Zolfo Springs could apply for the Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.