

HARDEE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
(INDEPENDENT BOARD)
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
412 WEST ORANGE STREET, ROOM 102
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 8:30 A.M.

MINUTES

Members:

David Royal, Vice-Chairman, P
Bill Beattie, P
Kenny Miller, P
Derren Bryan, P
Roger Hood, P

Bridget Merrill, Excused
Perry Knight, P
Bill Lambert, Chairman, P
Terry Atchley, 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 Atchley, second by Bryan to approve the agenda with the addition of III (b). Discussion on joint meeting with the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) on the funding of non-profits. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION by Bryan, second by Atchley to approve the September 12, 2011, regular meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- I. Acknowledge receipt of Clerk's Financial Report for period ending 08/31/11.

Chairman Lambert advised for the minutes to reflect the Board acknowledged receipt of the Clerk's Financial Report for period ending 08/31/11.

- II. Discuss funding for remaining grants: Peace River Explorations and Center for Great Apes.

Chairman Lambert opened the floor for discussion on the remaining grants. Bryan asked what the status was on Peace River Explorations that they had discussed at their last meeting on the City of Wauchula and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) administering the grant for the restoration of the train depot. Chairman Lambert advised all of that was fine. He further explained how at the last meeting they had agreed in concept to fund the Peace River Explorations \$400,000 through the City of Wauchula or its sub-entities and how all money not expended on the depot could be used for other purposes related to Peace River Explorations. Hood asked about this being done before the feasibility study. Chairman Lambert explained how it would be City of Wauchula infrastructure and needed to be complete. **MOTION by Royal, second by Miller** to fund the Peace River Explorations \$400,000 as discussed at the last meeting

through the City of Wauchula Community Redevelopment Agency. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Lambert then opened the floor for discussion on the Center for Great Apes. Hood advised he was not against the Center for Great Apes, but was against the Board funding public dollars for a non-profit agency. He then asked about the Job Creation request. Chairman Lambert asked the County Attorney or County Manager if they could consider the job creation grant at this point. County Manager Albritton explained it was a joint application, so it should be fine. Chairman Lambert asked if they could table the request until after they had their joint meeting on non-profits. County Manager Albritton advised as a Board they could make the decision to not fund yet and roll the money over in another cycle. Chairman Lambert advised he thought the original application was for \$50,000 and they did not fund because they wanted more clarification and wanted it to be tied to tourism. Ms. Cynthia Pierce, Center for Great Apes explained the Chairman was correct, they were asked to increase their visitors to the Center pertaining to tourism. She further explained how they redid the application and brought it back as a joint application with a commitment to increase their visitors and also, a request to complete the capital. She went on to explain how they needed funding for the jobs creation and would like to receive a signal from the county that they value what they bring to the community. Chairman Lambert advised he had no problem corresponding with their Board and explaining the difference in how they had taken an approach to economic development. He further explained he felt they were open in funding them if they could understand how their project would positively impact the development of tourism. They then discuss the issue with funding non-profits. Ms. Pierce then explained they were only asking for \$50,000 for job creation. Chairman Lambert then touched on how the job creation request had to be tied to tourism. Ms. Pierce explained how they had continued discussions with Peace River Explorations and increased their tours and had done everything the Board had requested. Knight asked about the original application. Ms. Pierce explained the original application and the joint application. County Manager Albritton touched on the jobs portion of the grant application. Ms. Pierce explained how critical it was now they received the grant because they were going to have to restructure their staffing and rewrite job descriptions in order to conform to the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) guidelines. County Manager Albritton questioned where the \$50,000 request came from. Ms. Pierce explained that had came up after they found out they were going to have to have some higher paid staff due to the GFAS guidelines. After further discussion, Chairman Lambert advised he did not think they could consider the original application, but since it had been included in the current joint application felt they could reject the capital portion of the application and consider the job creation portion. He went on to explain how he felt it may be wiser to table this request until they had their workshop on non-profits. Hood asked if it would affect the center if they tabled the application. Ms. Pierce stressed it would. She

explained how they needed the funding. County Manager Albritton explained how the amount funded on the job creation needed to tie back to what they were actually paying. After further discussion on the salary amounts of the jobs, Chairman Lambert asked what language they needed in a motion. County Manager Albritton advised the rate. Ms. Pierce touched on the jobs and the amount of pay. Bryan asked why they were trying to figure out the gross amount of the salaries and why didn't the center know. Ms. Pierce explained it would be \$52,000 or \$53,000. Hood asked how they would be able to sustain the positions if they were funded. Ms. Pierce explained one of the positions was a development position. After further discussion on the jobs and the amount of funding for each position, there was discussion on tying the funding to tourism. Ms. Pierce explained if they were funded they would be willing to agree to reasonable performance criteria. Chairman Lambert asked how the board felt about funding \$50,000 for job creation to the Center for Great Apes for the allocation of each job to be determined by staff with demonstration of a tourism benefit. Atchley explained how all the agencies that receive funding from the Board should come back and give presentation on the project. **MOTION by Atchley, second by Royal to fund \$50,000 for three jobs the apportionment thereof to be determined by the County Manger Albritton with a demonstration of a tourism tie at least on an annual basis. County Manager questioned if it would be a two year period. Chairman Lambert advised it would be. Hood explained how they were setting a precedent with funding the non profits before they had an opportunity to set their guidelines on how they wanted to fund non profits. Chairman Lambert explained that was why it was being tied to the tourism. Atchley explained he felt a job was a job in this economy. He further explained he felt they did need to have the joint meeting to set some further guidelines on non profits. Bryan asked if they did not complete the building as discussed at least meeting would they still create these jobs. Ms. Pierce explained they were still going to complete the building it was just taking longer and that was why the first job created was going to be in development because that would give them more time. There was further discussion on the term of the contract and the allocation for each job. County Attorney Evers advised they could either fund \$50,000 for one job or fund \$36,000 for one job and then \$7,000 for each of the remaining positions. Chairman Lambert asked the Board if anyone objected to using the County Attorney's suggestion of using the \$36,000 and \$14,000. Hood advised he agreed. Atchley advised he would amend his motion to that. **Motion was amended to add a division of the job creation to \$36,000 for the first job and \$14,000 for the remaining two. Motion carried unanimously.****

- III.(b) Discussion on joint meeting with the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) on the funding of non-profits.

Chairman Lambert asked the Board if they were willing on having a joint meeting with the IDA on the discussion of funding non profits. He explained how they would work on a date/time for the workshop. **MOTION by Knight, second by Bryan to meet with the IDA to discuss funding non-profits. Motion carried unanimously.**

County Manager Albritton explained they needed to discuss the funding of job creation and how much they would be funding for jobs at the workshop.

III. Request approval of budget for FY 2011/2012.

MOTION by Royal, second by Atchley to approve the budget for FY 2011/2012. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Public Comment.

Atchley explained he had been appointed the City Manager of the City of Wauchula and how he sat on the Board representing the Board of County Commissioners and how he would be resigning from the Board of County Commissioners effective 5:00 p.m. that day and therefore, would be resigning from the EDA Board as well. He touched on how they would need workshops and wished everyone the best of luck in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

William R. Lambert, Jr., Chairman