

HARDEE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
(INDEPENDENT BOARD)
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
412 WEST ORANGE STREET, ROOM 102
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873
July 24, 2012 8:30 A.M.

MINUTES

Members:

David Royal, Chairman, P
Bill Beattie, P
Kenny Miller, Excused
Casey Dickson, P
Roger Hood, P

Perry Knight, P
Sue Birge, Vice-Chairman, P
Stanley Pelham, P

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

Chairman Royal called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

MOTION by Birge, second by Pelham to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Hood, second by Dickson to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on Tuesday, March 06, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. and Joint Workshop on Tuesday, May 29, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. with the correction of Prescott to Dickson on the March 6, 2012 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

- I. Acknowledge receipt of project status reports.

MOTION by Hood, second by Pelham to acknowledge receipt of project status reports. Motion carried unanimously.

- II. Acknowledge receipt of Clerk's Financial Reports for periods ending 02/28/12, 03/31/12, 04/30/12, 05/31/12, & 06/30/12.

MOTION by Birge, second by Beattie to acknowledge receipt of Clerk's Financial Reports for periods ending 02/28/12, 03/31/12, 04/30/12, 05/31/12, & 06/30/12. Motion carried unanimously.

- III. Discuss 150,000 grant that the Board of County Commissioners received during Cycle Three.

County Manager Albritton explained the grant was made several years ago when the economy was better. He went on to explain it was applied for the area of Vandolah and was to be utilized to augment money for a master plan to be developed. He explained how that probably would not be needed for several years and he asked the Board of County Commissioners what their desire for the

money was and they advised they would like to turn it back in to the EDA and maybe it could be used to supplement the request of the Industrial Development Authority for the Water/Sewer Corridor Project. **MOTION by Pelham, second by Dixon to allow the money to augment the Corridor Project. Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Acknowledge receipt of Ranking Sheets from the cities and county.

Chairman Royal explained if they talleyed them up they would be in the following order:

- 1 WW Pretreatment Plant/Sheriff's Substation
- 2 Spec building Lightning Bay
- 3 Sewer/Water Corridor & City of Bowling Green Phase II Industrial Park
- 4 Spec building Commerce Park
- 5 EDC Admin Funding
- 6 Peace River Explorations – Job Creation

V. EDA Ranking.

Hood asked what the amount was they had to disburse for this cycle. Chairman Royal advised the total requests were \$3,520,722. He asked the County Manager or Bill Lambert, Economic Development Director what the amount was they had to disburse. Mr. Lambert advised there was a discrepancy in the Clerk's amount and Secretary to the Board's amount, so they were trying to work that out. County Manager Albritton explained to the Board the amount was around \$4 million. He also advised they had a letter in their package from the Center for Great Apes advising they could not move forward with their project. He further explained how the contract had never been signed by the Center for Great Apes, so that money would also be placed back in the account to disburse. He then explained the discrepancy was in how the Clerk records in their system and they would get together and work it out, but either way there was sufficient money to fund for this period.

Hood stated they had requests of \$3,520,722 and around \$4,000,000 to fund so they would need to discuss if they were going to fund all seven requests. Chairman Royal asked what the pleasure of the Board was. Pelham asked if they were going to take the projects one at a time or did they rank them themselves. Chairman Royal advised they had not ranked them in the past. Birge advised they had been ranked by four agencies. Dickson explained she was the Chamber

Representative and wanted to make sure she represented the Chamber's voice so the Executive Committee and Business Advocacy Committees of the Chamber had ranked the projects according to the EDA criteria. Hood advised he had ranked them as well. Birge advised she ranked them on the Board of County Commissioners. Pelham advised he felt funding the Peace River Explorations project before the feasibility study was done was premature. Chairman Royal explained at the last cycle the EDA funded the restoration of the depot through the City of Wauchula's CRA. He then asked where they were on the study. Dickson advised the deadline was either September or October 1st. Birge advised they could make it contingent upon the study. Hood asked when the position would be filled. Ms. Detwiler explained position would be filled by October 1st and how they had money to fund the position and how they wanted to have the depot open by then as well. Birge asked if she was receiving another grant for the other position and then requesting a grant from the EDA for a second position. Ms. Detwiler advised no it was just a reimbursement grant and was for job creation. Dickson asked if they had funding for the two years and for the years to come. Ms. Detwiler explained they did. Dickson then asked if they had supplied copies of their financial statements with the application. Ms. Detwiler advised they did not know they were needed. Ms. Detwiler advised they had a little over \$150,000 in the bank. Dickson asked if that would be used for the overall operations. Ms. Detwiler advised it would. Birge asked if they would be advertising the job position. Ms. Detwiler explained probably not.

Pelham asked if they were setting up to fund all of the phases for the City of Bowling Green's project. Knight explained the history of the property and how they were planning on tying in at Highway 17 and going to Lake Branch Road with an eight inch water line. He explained how beneficial it would be to the whole city. He also touched on how the city had paid for the engineering for this phase. He further added they were asking for this grant from the EDA to enhance their Industrial Park. Pelham asked if they were going to get any other grants. Knight explained they were hoping to implement Phase III with a grant they were currently working on. Dickson asked about the plan for maintenance of the park. Knight explained the City Manager of Bowling Green was working on a plan for that. Dickson also explained how their committee ranked the Water/Sewer Corridor project number one and how it would be great for the cities and the county to work together for the overall benefit of Hardee County. County Manager Albritton advised the cities and the county had met together but no committee had been formed. Chairman Royal asked if there were anymore questions. There were none. He then asked what the pleasure of the Board was.

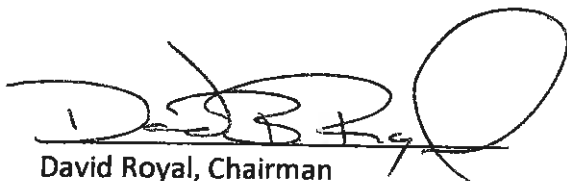
MOTION by Hood, second by Knight to fund all seven grant requests for the total amount requested. Royal advised he felt the Peace River Explorations job should be advertised since it was grant money. Birge agreed. Ms. Detwiler explained they really appreciated the help but the grant was a reimbursement grant. Dickson explained her only problem was how they did not have a budget or any guarantee from her board showing they had enough funds to last for the two years. Ms. Detwiler advised she did not see on the application where that needed to be submitted but if they wanted to see a copy of her last bank statement she could submit that. **Hood advised he would amend his motion** that they fund all seven grant requests with Peace River Explorations contingent upon them submitting justification to the County Manger that funding was available to sustain the job for two years. Ms. Detwiler asked if the bank statement would be sufficient. Dickson advised she would like to see a budget. Pelham advised it would be helpful to have something from the Peace River Explorations board that they are backing this project. Ms. Detwiler advised she did not mind submitting the required documentation, she just wanted to make sure she was being treated like everyone else. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. Public Comment.

Chairman Royal asked if there was any public comment. Frank Kirkland, Citizen, 3846 Fussell Road, Bowling Green stated that there was no need to break a perfectly good record just give it to them and let them go.

There was no other public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.



David Royal, Chairman