

**Campbell County
Economic Development Commission**

April 28, 2011

The regular meeting of the Campbell County Economic Development Commission was held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 in the Campbell County Board Level Multi-use Room, Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia.

Members Present:

Lester Wooldridge, Chairman
William Anderson
Gary Cantwell
G. Michael Damron
D. Vance Driskill
Kyle Rosser

Also Present:

Mike Davidson, Director of Economic Development
Brandon S. Turner, Program Manager

Member Absent:

William Calohan, III, Vice Chairman
Richard Carroll
Herbert W. Guthrie
William Overacre
William R. Reeves, Jr.
Scott Tweedy

// Chairman Wooldridge called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

// The October 28, 2010 minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, upon a motion by Mr. Driskill, seconded by Mr. Damron, and duly adopted by unanimous vote of the members present, the October 28, 2010 Economic Development Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Matters from the Economic Development Director

Project Updates

// Mr. Davidson briefly mentioned the new Board of Supervisor's schedule, noting that the Board will meet only once per month unless a public hearing is scheduled. He mentioned the new schedule has been well received by members of the Board as well as county staff.

// Mr. Davidson next spoke on project updates, briefly mentioning ongoing projects and discussing employment/unemployment numbers. The Commission was relieved to hear that the region's unemployment rate has slipped below 7%, according to recent figures.

Mr. Cantwell inquired about the contract with the World Economic Development Alliance. Mr. Davidson gave a brief history of the department's relationship with WEDA. He stated it is a great

asset that has generated 35 leads in the past year; of which Campbell County was submitted to 18 prospects where the county met requirements. He noted that, as of yet, no projects have been landed through WEDA, but the county is getting name recognition. Mr. Davidson did state that, since the company is based in Dallas, most prospects in which they deal are seeking sites in the Midwest and West. Mr. Cantwell inquired if the return was worth the investment; Mr. Davidson stated that since no prospects had landed in the county it was difficult to tell; however, if only one were finalized it would more than pay for the money allocated to WEDA. The Commission unanimously felt this is a great marketing tool and wants to continue working with WEDA.

// Mr. Davidson next briefed the Commission on several county updates. He spoke on the history of the Regional Services Authority, leading up to the news that the county is preparing to re-activate the old Livestock Road landfill as a regional solid waste facility.

Mr. Davidson also stated that the county's budget is close to approval. He explained that several sources of funding, including Stimulus funds for schools, will be ending next year, creating budget complications for FY 2013. Mr. Davidson also explained that the county's reassessment is complete, and overall property values decreased slightly. This will necessitate the readjustment of the personal property tax rate from \$0.46 to \$0.47 per \$100 assessed value in order to equalize county revenue. This equalization rate will allow for a slight increase of just over \$100,000 in the county's budget. A general discussion of the county's tax rate and business license fees followed.

// Mr. Davidson next updated the Commission on the Region 2000 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies project. He stated the program should wrap up in August. Approximately 50 projects have been approved for the CEDS, with potentially a few more added in the coming months. These projects will be grouped as "Infrastructure" and "other" in upcoming meetings to debate which are eligible to receive Federal funding. Mr. Davidson then briefly mentioned Campbell County's projects listed in the regional CEDS.

// The County CEDS project was also discussed by Mr. Davidson; he noted that it will kick off in July. He gave a brief run-down of the creation of the CEDS committee and its make-up. The meeting schedule was also discussed, which will consist of three joint CEDS/EDC meetings and three stand-alone CEDS meetings. Mr. Davidson noted that the county cannot afford to pay EDC stipends for the stand-alone CEDS meetings; there were no objections to this. There was discussion of the time to hold meetings; Mr. Cantwell noted it would be a good idea to hold several meetings in the evening to allow those who work during the day to attend. It was a general consensus that the joint CEDS/EDC meetings will be held at noon, which is typical of EDC meetings, and several stand-alone CEDS meetings will be held in the evening.

The location of the meetings was also discussed. Originally, CEDS meetings were planned to take place in the Multi-Purpose room; however, with only approximately 20-25 committee members anticipated to attend, meetings may be held in the Citizen's Services Building Conference Room. Mr. Davidson also stated he will check with IT to see if teleconferencing and/or web conferencing can be held from this room for those who cannot attend meetings in person.

// Mr. Davidson updated the Commission on a staff update; as of May 1 he will be able to fill the position of Administrative Assistant, which has been vacant since October 2010. He noted that a number of candidates have been interviewed, and he hopes to have the position filled by June 1st.

Matters from the County Administrator

// Mr. Laurell was not in attendance for the meeting; therefore, no matters were discussed.

Matters from Commission Members

// There were no further updates or questions from Commission Members.

// Following a general discussion of the aforementioned matters and with no other items presented for consideration, upon a motion by Mr. Cantwell and seconded by Mr. Damron, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

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