

JOINT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Minutes of Meeting
March 26, 2009

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Wytheville Municipal Building located at 150 East Monroe Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Elmore, Vice Chairman
Tom Jones
Dana Pack

Linda DiYorio
Jennifer Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Snyder, Chairman
Foy Patton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

R. Cellell Dalton, Wythe County Administrator
Raymond E. Matney, Rural Retreat Town Manager
C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Wytheville Town Manager

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Vice Chairman Elmore called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present. Dr. Hawthorne offered the invocation, and Vice Chairman Elmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

Vice Chairman Elmore welcomed Mayor Trent Crewe to today's meeting and asked if there were any persons present who would like to address the Board during citizens' time. There being none, Vice Chairman Elmore proceeded with the meeting. Mr. Elmore recognized and welcomed Bill Smith who arrived later in the meeting.

PRESENTATION—ROGER FRYE, VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Virginia Employment Commission Manager, Roger Frye, presented information to the Board regarding unemployment in Wythe and Bland Counties. He pointed out that unemployment rates, from December to January, had increased from 7.6% to 10.3% in Wythe County and from 6.5% to 7.4% in Bland County. He noted that many businesses and industries in the area are currently not hiring, cutting back on hours, or are suspending work for 1 or 2 days per week. On a positive note, he mentioned that Pepsi, Mid-Atlantic in Rural Retreat, and James Hardy in Pulaski are currently accepting applications.

Mr. Frye discussed the Trade Act Agreement criteria and how employees of closing industries and businesses can benefit from the assistance that is available through this program. He also mentioned that the President's Stimulus Package will provide additional help to terminated and displaced workers.

Mr. Frye updated the Board on the progress of the One-Stop Center. Plans are moving forward for relocating the Virginia Employment Commission office, along with other agencies, to the vacated Goody's building on East Main Street in Wytheville. The projected completion date is scheduled for November 1, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—February 26, 2009, meeting

Ms. DiYorio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Mr. Pack made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve the invoices. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Joint IDA of Wythe County

Check Register

For the Period From February 26, 2009 through March 26, 2009

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
5820	3/26/09	Alan R. Hawthorne	4,220.55
5821	3/26/09	David L. Elmore	207.79
5822	3/26/09	Dana R. Pack	207.79
5823	3/26/09	Foy W. Patton	207.79
5824	3/26/09	Jennifer W. Jones	207.79
5825	3/26/09	Linda DiYorio	207.79
5826	3/26/09	Patrick G. Burton	2,476.57
5827	3/26/09	Tom Jones	207.79
5828	3/26/09	Virginia M. Goodwin	1,506.83
5829	3/26/09	William F. Snyder	207.79
5830	3/26/09	Appalachian Power	136.93

5831	3/26/09	Anthem Southeast Dental	100.72
5832	3/26/09	Anthem Blue Cross and Blueshield	1,544.35
5833	3/26/09	Embarq	140.52
5834	3/26/09	First Bank of Virginia	3,461.04
5835	3/26/09	Mellon Trust of New England	850.00
5836	3/26/09	Postmaster	84.00
5837	3/26/09	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00
5838	3/26/09	Southern Economic Development	225.00
5839	3/26/09	Sprint PCS	81.48
5840	3/26/09	VA Dept of Taxation	553.52
5841	3/26/09	VA Dept of Taxation	10.00
5842	3/26/09	Virginia Goodwin	68.55
5843	3/26/09	Bankcard Services	223.37
5844	3/26/09	Va Municipal Liability Pool	636.25
5845	3/26/09	Xerox	267.86
5846	3/26/09	Principal Life Insurance Co.	152.94

Total **\$19,295.01**

OLD BUSINESS

EMBARQ SCC CASE UPDATE

Dr. Hawthorne gave a status update on the petition submitted by EMBARQ to the State Corporation Commission regarding Intrastate Carrier Access Rates. Dorothy Cochran from Embarq presented an outline of the petition to the Board during the November 2008 Board meeting. Embarq will be allowed to make a presentation to the SCC in early April. A copy of the Motion for Oral Argument issued on behalf of Embarq is available at the Joint IDA office for review by Board members.

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT—MAY 14, 2009

Ms. Jennifer Jones updated the Board on the combined meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Joint IDA Business and Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament committees. Ms. Jones reported that the first flyer was mailed on March 16. To date, there have been two Event Sponsors (Wythe County Community Hospital and Smokey's Bar-B-Que), one Tournament Sponsor (Embarq), and two team sign-ups received. The next tournament update will be given at the April Board meeting.

UPDATE ON ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT COMMITTEE

Jennifer Jones reported on the March 17 meeting of the Anniversary Celebration Event committee. This will be a scaled-back event held in conjunction with the Chautauqua Festival. Guided bus tours of Progress Park will be available to the public on Wednesday, June 24 which will include a facility tour of Wytheville Technologies and on Saturday, June 27 which will include a facility tour of Gatorade. Board members were asked to sign-up as volunteers to serve in the capacity of bus tour guides and to be available at the bus stop to offer information or assistance as needed. Future meetings of the committee will be held on an as-needed basis. The

Board will be informed of the event's progress at the next regular Board meeting.

ENTREPRENEUR EXPRESS UPDATE

An update on the Entrepreneur Express Workshop to be held at the Wytheville Meeting Center on April 30 was given by Dr. Hawthorne. There have been 20 registrations received and more are expected as time progresses. Sandy Ratliff with the Department of Business Assistance is tentatively planning to be available at the Joint IDA office on April 22 and May 7 so that current and potential business owners can meet with her individually to discuss their needs. Ms. Ratliff will talk with them regarding opportunities and assistance that is available from various agencies and organizations in Virginia.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS UPDATE

Dr. Hawthorne spoke briefly about his February 2009 Board meeting presentation titled "Wythe Future - A peer over the horizon, 2030." Dr. Hawthorne's main focus of attention this month has been current unemployment data. Concentration has been on workforce and demand and the capacity of Progress Park to help meet needs for employment growth. He will compile information and present it at a later scheduled Board meeting.

OTHER

None

NEW BUSINESS

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS UPDATE

Dr. Hawthorne presented information to the Board regarding Regional Employment Data from January 2007 to January 2009. Statistics from Wythe and surrounding counties, along with the region, state, and nation were compared. Included was data concerning growth in the civilian labor force, employment, and unemployment. In summary, Dr. Hawthorne told the Board that there are several things that could be expected from this employment picture: (1) the economy will still be weak; (2) it will take time for the fiscal and monetary policy action to succeed; (3) employment is a lagging indication and will likely get worse; (4) our diversified economy should help; and (5) Wythe County should do slightly better than the region. Dr. Hawthorne will inform the Board of any changes in employment and unemployment data as it becomes available.

STIMULUS FUNDING UPDATE

Economic Stimulus Package funding was discussed by Dr. Hawthorne. Across the nation, there are a variety of items being funded by the package including extensions of unemployment benefits, public safety, and education. The Commonwealth of Virginia has established a website that shows potential projects submitted from various organizations and individuals around Virginia. Programs and projects selected to be funded by the stimulus package can be monitored on the website. Wytheville and Wythe County have submitted several projects including: repainting the Town of Wytheville water tower, water and sewer upgrades, and rail extension in Progress Park. Dr. Hawthorne added that the status of the project submissions should be known in

about a month. The Board will be apprised of any project approvals or denials when the information is received.

PROGRESS PARK DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Grading continues on Lot 1 in Progress Park. Discussions are in progress on detailed engineering work for a potential complex project in Progress Park. Updated information will be provided at a future Board meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES

The site committee has recently been working on a project involving a type of recycling operation. Discussions are in the beginning stage so there are no specific details to report on at this time. Dr. Hawthorne will give an update on the project during the April Board meeting.

OTHER

Census and Stimulus Funding Information - Mayor Trent Crewe spoke briefly concerning the upcoming census and stimulus funding. In the past, there have not been accurate statistics reported for Wythe County and the Town of Wytheville. Both localities are working to ensure that the information compiled for the 2010 Census is accurate. Mayor Crewe added that it is important that census data be correct because the amount of funding distributed to government entities is generally based on census information. He also stated that there is potential to receive sizeable amounts of assistance from the stimulus package that could greatly benefit our area.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Vice Chairman Elmore adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Dave Elmore, Vice Chairman

Attest:

Virginia M. Goodwin, Secretary