

JOINT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Minutes of Meeting
April 23, 2009

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Rural Retreat Town Hall located at 307 South Main Street, Rural Retreat, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

William Snyder, Chairman
Linda DiYorio
Tom Jones
Dana Pack

David Elmore, Vice Chairman
Foy Patton
Jennifer Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

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

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

CITIZENS' TIME

Chairman Snyder welcomed Bucky Sharitz 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, Chairman Snyder proceeded with the meeting.

PRESENTATION—JOE WEBB AND DEBBIE STONE, WYTHE COUNTY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Dr. Hawthorne introduced Debbie Stone, Principal and Joe Webb, Precision Machine Technology Instructor from the Wythe County Technology Center (WCTC). They gave an informative presentation on a recent, successful student project involving an entry in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition regional event in Richmond. The Virginia Tobacco Commission provided funding for WCTC's participation in the competition, which was held in March. This was the first time an entry in such a competition had been attempted by the school

The team, which nick-named it's robot the "Backwoods Bot", was made up of students from the Precision Machine Technology, Manufacturing Systems Technology, and Computer Aided Drafting classes, had to entirely design and build the robot. The students received a kit with materials, a motor, wheels, and components that they were required to use in the project. The robot was designed, machined, constructed, tested, and shipped in a time frame of six weeks. The regional competition included a total of 60 teams. The WCTC team was one of five rookie teams participating in the competition. After qualifying rounds, the Wythe County team was the highest ranking rookie team. The team received the Delphi "Driving Tomorrow's Technology" Award for a particularly unique, creative, and functional machine feature.

Mr. Webb showed a video of the team's experience in the competition including comments from several students.

Dr. Snyder congratulated Mr. Webb and Ms. Stone and thanked them for sharing the WCTC Robotics team's success story with the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—MARCH 26, 2009, meeting

Ms. Jones noted that Dana Pack's name was entered twice in the Members Present section of the minutes. Ms. Goodwin will remove the name before the final copy is printed. Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pack, to adopt the minutes with the noted change. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Dr. Hawthorne informed the Board that, beginning in June, First Bank will no longer accept employee withholding tax deposits. The Joint IDA will be utilizing the IRS and Commonwealth of Virginia websites to deposit withholding taxes starting in May. Ms. DiYorio asked about check #5859 to Southeast Culinary College. Dr. Hawthorne stated that the check is payment to a new caterer at the Wytheville Meeting Center who will be providing lunch for the Entrepreneur Express Workshop participants. Mr. Pack made a motion, seconded by Mr. Patton, to approve the invoices. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Joint IDA of Wythe County
Check Register
For the Period From March 26, 2009 through April 23, 2009

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
5847	4/23/09	Alan R. Hawthorne	4,220.55
5848	4/23/09	Patrick G. Burton	2,476.57
5849	4/23/09	Virginia M. Goodwin	1,506.83
5850	4/23/09	Appalachian Power Company	93.97
5851	4/23/09	Alan Hawthorne - Reimbursement	318.19
5852	4/23/09	Anthem Southeast Dental	100.72
5853	4/23/09	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	1,544.35
5854	4/23/09	Chamber of Commerce	25.00
5855	4/23/09	Embarq	134.57
5856	4/23/09	Mellon Trust of New England	850.00
5857	4/23/09	Principal Life Insurance Company	152.94
5858	4/23/09	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00
5859	4/23/09	Southeast Culinary College	448.50
5860	4/23/09	Sprint PCS	81.77
5861	4/23/09	VA Dept of Taxation	553.52
5862	4/23/09	Virginia Employment Commission	39.76
5863	4/23/09	Bankcard Services	236.41
5864	4/23/09	Wytheville Office Supply	54.99
5865	4/23/09	Wytheville Meeting Center	475.00
5866	4/23/09	Xerox	315.92
Total			\$14,729.56

OLD BUSINESS

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT—MAY 14, 2009

Dave Elmore gave an update on the Business and Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament. He stated that everything is on track. There are now three large sponsors and the committee is working within budget. The committee is prepared for the event and everything is on schedule. There will be a committee meeting on Friday, May 8, before the tournament, to finalize all plans.

UPDATE ON ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT COMMITTEE

Linda DiYorio gave an update on the Anniversary Celebration Event festivities. The Progress Park tours will be held on June 24 and June 27. The tours will depart from Spiller Elementary School each day at 10 a .m, 12 p. m., and 2 p. m. On Wednesday, June 24, the tours will include a facility tour of Wytheville Technologies and on Saturday, June 27, the tours will include a facility tour of Gatorade. Patrick Burton is drafting a script to be used by the volunteer tour guides. There are still time slots open for volunteers to sign-up. Dr. Snyder suggested that area high school students be invited and encouraged to participate in the tours.

ENTREPRENEUR EXPRESS UPDATE

Patrick Burton updated the Board on the Entrepreneur Express Workshop being held on April 30 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Currently there are 41 registered participants. Sandy Ratliff, with the Department of Business Assistance, is providing an opportunity for current and potential business owners to meet with her one-on-one at the Joint IDA office on May 7, as a follow-up to the Workshop. She will discuss opportunities and assistance available to them from various agencies and organizations in Virginia.

OTHER

None

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRESS PARK RAIL SITE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Dr. Hawthorne presented information to the Board regarding development options for an enlarged Lot 24 in Progress Park. Key points discussed were: having a strategic location, the intersection of three interstates, infrastructure, cost advantages, manufacturing's recent growth, the market niche, and goals needed to develop a rail-served site with a 150 acre pad. The reason development is being discussed is because there have been four large, rail-served prospects who have considered locating in Progress Park during the past few years. Wythe County does not have a large rail-served, shovel-ready site at the present time. This is a major deterrent for potential manufacturers considering locating in the park, due to the considerable lead time necessary for site development. Dr. Hawthorne explained that there are endorsements and support from funding agencies that need to be discussed before development can begin on the lot.

Dr. Snyder said that he felt that Dr. Hawthorne should continue pursuing a working concept for the project. Dr. Hawthorne will present the proposal to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors during their meeting on April 28. The Joint IDA Board members were invited to attend the meeting with Dr. Hawthorne.

LONG-RANGE PROJECTIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL PARK NEEDS

Dr. Hawthorne discussed briefly long-range projections concerning the need for industrial park space. During his research, he found that existing trends do not show a need for additional industrial park space in the next 20 to 30 years. Thus, Dr. Hawthorne recommends that focus should remain on Progress Park for the short- and long-terms and not on a new park.

PROJECT UPDATES

OTHER

Growth Conference - Dr. Snyder will be attending the Growth Conference sponsored by the Regional Planning Commissions of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. The conference will address growth issues in these areas. Dr. Snyder will share the information he learns at the conference with the Board during the next regular meeting.

Joint IDA Internet and Email connection - Dr. Hawthorne explained that the email and Internet connection at the Joint IDA office had been disconnected due to the closing of Wythe Net. Services were down for approximately two weeks, but have recently been restored through Embarq's DSL service.

Allocation of metals and wastewater treatment plant - Dr. Hawthorne mentioned to the Board that he had recently discussed with Wythe County Administrator, Cellell Dalton, the capacity needs for treatment of metals in wastewater. Discussions included allowing capacity for new industries locating in Progress Park. Don Crisp is currently working on information for this effort.

Governor's Economic Crisis Strike Force Regional Meeting - Dr. Hawthorne and Patrick Burton will be attending the Governor's Economic Crisis Strike Force Regional Meeting on Monday, April 27 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., at Southwest Virginia Community College. Dr. Hawthorne invited the Board members to attend the meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p. m.

William Snyder, Chairman

Attest:

Virginia M. Goodwin, Secretary