

May 25, 2006

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at the Council Room of the Wytheville Municipal Building located at 150 East Monroe Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joseph W. Freeman, Chairman	William F. Snyder, Vice Chairman
George T. Johnstone, Treasurer	Gerald L. Brewer
Danny B. Gordon	

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Elmore
David N. Johnson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Wytheville Town Manager

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

Raymond E. Matney, Rural Retreat Town Manager
R. Cellell Dalton, Wythe County Administrator

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

CITIZENS' TIME

Dr. Snyder asked if there were any persons present who wished to address the board during citizens' time. There being none, he proceeded with the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF SUMMER INTERN LAURA TEED

Dr. Hawthorne introduced Laura Teed. Ms. Teed is a student at the University of Virginia, where she is majoring in environmental science. Dr. Hawthorne stated she would be completing a ten-week summer internship program, during which she will be involved in a variety of activities with a major concentration on website upgrades.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 22, 2006 board meeting

Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Mr. Gordon questioned Check # 4951 for the amount of \$4,548.20 to the Wytheville Golf Club. He also questioned if this was high compared to previous years. Dr. Hawthorne explained this was the correct amount. Ms. Skeens stated this was the combined total for both the reception and the tournament. Dr. Hawthorne stated the expense had been budgeted for this year. Mr. Webb stated this was in line with last year, but he would check on it. Mr. Webb stated that the Joint IDA secured a record breaking number of hole sponsors this year, and Dr. Snyder explained there was a fee increase for participation which helped cover projected expenses. Mr. Gordon asked about Check # 4929 and Check # 4950 payable to Infinidev. Dr. Hawthorne stated the first check was for the initial start up of website redesign and the second check was the second of four total payments. Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnstone to approve the invoices. The motion passed unanimously.

Joint IDA of Wythe County

Check Register

For the Period From May 1, 2006 to May 31, 2006

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
4929	5/3/06	Infinidev	400.00
4930	5/25/06	Alan R. Hawthorne	3,615.52
4931	5/25/06	Danielle M. Skeens	1,733.44
4932	5/25/06	Michael B. Webb	2,050.37
4933	5/25/06	The Mount Rogers Dev Partnership	6,899.76
4934	5/25/06	Appalachian Power	57.13
4935	5/25/06	Anthem Southeast Dental	90.76
4936	5/25/06	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	1,404.32
4937	5/25/06	First Bank of Virginia	2,673.80
4938	5/25/06	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00

4939	5/25/06	Sprint PCS	82.02
4940	5/25/06	Sprint	123.87
4941	5/25/06	Embarq	7.32
4942	5/25/06	Town of Wytheville	13.16
4943	5/25/06	Treasurer of Virginia	25.00
4944	5/25/06	VA Dept Of Taxation	440.48
4945	5/25/06	Bankcard Services	9.68
4946	5/25/06	Xerox	267.86
4947	5/25/06	Alan Hawthorne - Reimbursement	63.64
4948	5/25/06	Mike Webb	42.72
4949	5/25/06	VA Economic Dev Assoc.	35.00
4950	5/25/06	Infinidev	400.00
4951	5/25/06	Wytheville Golf Club	4,548.20
4952	5/25/06	Danielle M. Skeens	43.61
4953	5/25/06	Laura Teed	539.92
4954	5/25/06	VA Dept Of Taxation	9.20
4955	5/25/06	First Bank of Virginia	139.84
Total			26,816.62

OLD BUSINESS

PRESENTATION -EXISTING INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES

Mr. Webb shared a slide show about existing industry activities. He explained what he is hearing during site visits, activities of the Wythe Manufacturing Council, status of workforce development initiatives, and other activities. He noted that the golf tournament was a success with twenty-four teams participating. He shared pictures of the golf tournament. Mr. Gordon stated the reception after the golf tournament was the best reception he has attended with a great variety of food. Mr. Freeman apologized for not being able to attend but noted he had heard positive feedback from those that were able to attend. Mr. Gordon suggested that thank you letters be sent to both reception and hole sponsors and to the club restaurant. Mr. Webb informed the board that letters had already been mailed to the club and restaurant.

STATUS OF WORKFORCE/EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND GRANT APPLICATION

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board of the efforts still being made to find funding for the third career coach position. Dr. Hawthorne spoke with Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade Rick Siger at the Amcor PET Packaging groundbreaking ceremony regarding this issue. Sec. Siger is very interested and will try to help if at all possible. Dr. Snyder suggested approaching the new president of Wytheville Community College for monetary assistance. Dr. Hawthorne noted that

Mr. Danny McDaniel would like to have all three positions filled by the beginning of August in order to send them to necessary training seminars. Dr. Snyder asked who these individuals would be working under, and Dr. Hawthorne stated the Wythe County School Board. Dr. Hawthorne reiterated this is a one-time start up fee and he is still optimistic funding will be provided for the one career coach position.

FAIRVIEW REZONING

Mr. Webb explained that the Wytheville Planning Commission is holding a public hearing on June 8, 2006, to consider the rezoning of Fairview Industrial Park and some surrounding areas to M1-M. Mr. Webb will attend the meeting, and noted that about a dozen landowners were supportive of the effort. Mr. Sutherland commented that there might be a large attendance at the public hearing. Mr. Gordon noted that it might be wise to meet with All Nations Church to discuss any misconceptions that might exist. Mr. Gordon offered to arrange such meetings.

FAIRVIEW LAND SALE INCLUDING CONVEYANCE OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Mr. Webb informed the board that legal counsel Tom Hodges believed that the Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County must also sign the deed of sale because the deed is still in their name though the Joint IDA controls the land. He explained that the Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County met earlier in the afternoon and authorized its chairman to sign the deed. Mr. Webb also explained that the last few hundred feet of George James Drive was never actually conveyed to the Town of Wytheville. The Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County voted to convey the road to the Town of Wytheville, and Mr. Sutherland had indicated to the Joint IDA the Town's willingness to accept the road. Mr. Johnstone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to authorize the transfer of the road to the Town of Wytheville. The motion passed unanimously.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Hawthorne stated the Joint IDA had entered a contract with Infinidev of Galax. He stated there would be a total of four payments according to the contract agreement: one at the beginning of the process, one on May 31, 2006, another on June 30, 2006, and a final payment on August 31, 2006, at which time the website will go live online. Dr. Hawthorne stated that a website committee meeting had taken place earlier in the day with Mr. Rob Swiger of Infinidev. Dr. Hawthorne explained it was a very productive meeting. The website is getting a complete upgrade and will be a great investment. Dr. Hawthorne stated a tremendous amount of progress had been made and he was very excited about the end results. Dr. Snyder reiterated that progress was being made. Dr. Hawthorne stated Mr. Swiger would be giving a presentation to the board members at the June 22, 2006, meeting, during which the website would be ready for beta testing.

OTHER

Ms. Skeens stated that the Joint IDA purchased a Hewlett Packard R817 digital camera. She stated the camera has the stitching capabilities; however, does not have the viewfinder. Mr. Freeman asked how many megapixels the camera had, and Mr. Webb stated 5.1. Ms. Skeens stated the camera was received on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, and was successfully used at the golf tournament on Thursday, May 18, 2006. Ms. Skeens stated she was very pleased with the purchase, as it was a great camera for around \$240.00.

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board of the successful groundbreaking ceremony at Amcor Pet Packaging. Dr. Hawthorne showed a glass shovel memento from the ceremony to board members and a glass plaque that was presented to the Joint IDA for its help and cooperation. Dr. Hawthorne noted the Joint IDA had succeeded again in building goodwill and confidence among new industries. He informed the board that the site is being prepared and Amcor PET Packaging is moving forward as planned. Mr. Gordon commented the groundbreaking ceremony was once again first class; however, he was disappointed there was not more television news media there to cover the event.

NEW BUSINESS

VISIT FROM SECRETARY GOTTSCHALK

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board of Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick Gottschalk's visit to the Workforce Investment Board meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, as part of Business Appreciation Week activities. Lunch was held at the Log House in Wytheville, where they were joined by local officials for the regional economic development meeting. Dr. Hawthorne provided Sec. Gottschalk a tour of Progress Park prior to the meeting, where they discussed the career coach positions. Sec. Gottschalk is very interested in working behind the scenes to help find funding for the career coach position. Dr. Hawthorne also informed the board that the deputy secretary seemed very willing to work with the Joint IDA, as well, and that these connections seem like promising opportunities.

ECONOMIC/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FOR WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Dr. Hawthorne stated the conference is scheduled for August 15, 2006, at Wytheville Community College in the electronic classroom in Smyth Hall. Dr. Hawthorne is coordinating activities with Aric Bopp of the New River Economic Development Alliance and Tom Elliott of the Virginia's aCorridor for the event.

JOINT IDA NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2006 ISSUE

The board reviewed the Spring 2006 issue of the Joint IDA newsletter.

SOUTHERN BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT AD

Mr. Webb informed the board of the magazine *Southern Business & Development*. This magazine is distributed to approximately 17, 826 subscribers, and targets businesses in the North to convince them to locate to the South. The magazine is doing a feature article on Gatorade as one of the top projects in the South by a New York-based company. The Joint IDA would like to feature a 1/4 page advertisement concurrent with the Gatorade article. Mr. Webb said the total cost was \$2,100, which the magazine discounted to \$1,500. The Virginia's aCorridor and Old Dominion Electric Co-op have agreed to be co-sponsors, reducing the Joint IDA's cost to \$375. Mr. Webb provided two potential layouts of the ad. Mr. Webb stated Stallard Studios would design the ad. Mr. Freeman stated he thought this was a bargain. Mr. Brewer commented he would like to see the flag and the Progress Park entrance on the ad if at all possible. Dr. Hawthorne stated those possibilities could be discussed with Mr. Jim Stallard. Mr. Gordon made reference to his liking of the advertisement with the building on it, and made a motion to move forward with the ad. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SOUTHERN PROGRESS PARK SEWER PROJECT

Dr. Hawthorne provided the board with a rendering of the Amcor PET Packaging building. Mr. Gordon inquired about the potential for an underground transit to Gatorade. Dr. Hawthorne stated it would not be underground but would be a bridge/conveyor system. Mr. Gordon asked what material will be used for the walls. Dr. Hawthorne informed the board that they were concrete walls, similar to the material used at Gatorade, only painted. Dr. Hawthorne informed the board that Amcor provided a display board of Progress Park to the Joint IDA. Dr. Hawthorne informed the board of Lot 31, which will be occupied by Lane Enterprises. Infrastructure needs to be completed to this lot which will cost about \$900,000 for sewer lines and pump station. The Board of Supervisors has agreed to offer this project to CRIFA. Mr. Gordon asked if the Inland Port coming to Roanoke would create future problems for Progress Park. Dr. Hawthorne stated there could still be a satellite operation in Progress Park when there will be major users in the park.

POTENTIAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO SUPPORT MID-ATLANTIC MFG. & HYDRAULICS

Dr. Hawthorne stated he is in the process of working on an access road between Mid-Atlantic and Camrett Logistics. Virginia Department of Transportation is estimating the project cost and studying the drainage. Dr. Hawthorne advised it may be possible to get this road for little or no cost to the companies.

PROJECT UPDATES

Dr. Hawthorne provided an update on a project looking at a rail-served lot. Mr. Freeman asked about Coalfield services moving into Progress Park. Dr. Hawthorne explained they would begin breaking ground this fall. Mr. Webb stated they would be finishing the project by the end of next summer. Dr. Hawthorne remarked that they have stretched out the timeline and will be doing a lot of the work themselves.

OTHER

Dr. Hawthorne recapped the computer problems encountered recently. He stated that Steve Henley and Chris King changed the Joint IDA server settings to allow incoming video conference calls, which created additional problems at the Joint IDA and the Town of Wytheville offices. The Joint IDA purchased a new Cisco router at Mr. King's suggestion. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Webb's computer hard drive crashed. A new one has been installed. Mr. Freeman questioned if Mr. Webb recovered any data from the old one. Dr. Hawthorne stated some items were lost, but most are still on the server. Dr. Hawthorne explained he believes some information can still be accessed, once he has ample time to retrieve it. Dr. Hawthorne informed the board of his intentions to wait to upgrade the computers until the new VISTA OS comes out in the fall.

Mr. Webb informed the board that Habitat for Humanity would be having an Open House in June, and suggested taking a tour of the office after the June 22, 2006, board meeting. The consensus of the board was for Mr. Webb to arrange the tour.

Mr. Gordon suggested sending Mr. Tom Bralley a get well card and fruit basket from the Joint IDA.

Mr. Webb announced the Creative Glass and Mirror building, a warehouse on the ABF lot, and the Pendleton building are available and being marketed on the Joint IDA website.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Mr. Freeman adjourned the meeting at 4:22 pm.

Joseph W. Freeman, Chairman

Attest:

Danielle M. Skeens, Secretary