



Grayson County Economic Development Authority

P. O. Box 217; Independence, VA 24348

February 20, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Todd Cannaday
Jason Baumgardner (tele-conference)
Justine Jackson-Ricketts
Gary Rascoe
Darin Young

Staff Present

Stephen A. Boyer
Mitchell L. Smith
Nikki Edwards
Lyndsie Young
Tracy Cornett
Deb Jones

Members Absent

Chris Butler
Elizabeth Hash

Staff Absent

OPEN MEETING/ROLL CALL

Mr. Cannaday opened the meeting, determined a quorum is present and called roll.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Warren made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Mr. Rascoe.
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Warren made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 meeting; duly seconded by Ms. Jackson-Ricketts. Motion carried

PRESENTATION(S)

- April Collins, Director, Blue Ridge Crossroads Small business Development Center – Ms. Collins introduced herself and gave a summary on what they do. Ms. Collins also noted that she had been approached by Grayson LandCare and noted that Grayson LandCare will be offering a \$1500 grant for small businesses that have been established to apply for in Grayson County. They want to promote the economy, community and environment and the application will be completed shortly. Ms. Collins is asking for the EDA to help promote this within the county – there will be only 1 award
- Ashlynn Shrewsberry, MRRP Economic Development Manager – Strategic Plan - Nichole Hair, Director, introduced herself and Ms. Shrewsberry – Ms. Shrewsberry followed up on the strategic planning report recommendations and strategic actions:

- (1) EDA loan process – would be happy to help develop grant/loan program
- (2) Redevelopment in Grayson County – Childcare Centers – can help identify site for this and buildings available
- (3) Develop a small business incubator – can bring in partners to help with this effort
- (4) Work with the Town – better communication on projects
- (5) Do onboarding training for new EDA members and Ms. Shrewsberry can help with this as well

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Edwards presented the current financials and noted that she and Mr. Butler will go over projects before next month's meeting – noted that line 81 is reimbursement for sheep grant; line 76 is reimbursement for demolition; line 83 and 84 is grants – balance is \$780,582.34. Mr. Warren made the motion to approve the financials; duly seconded by Mr. Rascoe. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

- Mrs. Cornett noted that Appalachian Horseback Adventures is an established business looking to expand – and would like to come to the next EDA meeting.
- Ms. Jones spoke of funding opportunities of \$100,000 that the EDA could potentially acquire through USDA to give loans to businesses – also other funding is available for feasibility study of \$50,000 - \$75,000 with a \$5,000 match. Mr. Warren made the motion for Ms. Jones to proceed in securing this loan; duly seconded by Mr. Rascoe. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURN

Mr. Warren made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Mr. Rascoe.