



Grayson County Economic Development Authority

P. O. Box 217; Independence, VA 24348

May 21, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Christopher J. Butler
Todd Cannaday
Gary Rascoe
Elizabeth Hash
Jason Baumgardner
Kenneth Belton
Elizabeth "Betsy" Shearin
Darin Young (non-voting)

Staff Present

Mitchell L. Smith
Lyndsie Young
Tracy Cornett
Deb Jones

Members Absent

Staff Absent

Stephen A. Boyer
Nikki Edwards

OPEN MEETING

Chair opened meeting, welcomed new members Mr. Belton and Mrs. Shearin and called roll noting a quorum is present. Mr. Butler noted the way the EDA operates regarding grants/loans.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cannaday made the motion to approve the minutes; duly seconded by Mr. Baumgardner. Motion carried 7-0.

FINANCIALS

Mr. Butler noted the financial report (on file in County Admin office) and noted that \$788,204.54 is the current balance – discussed payments and revenue received – also noted that Angela Biram's place is now open and seems to be doing good – EDA members would like to attend her Grand Opening. Mrs. Hash made the motion to approve the financials; duly seconded by Mr. Cannaday. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- ARS Discussion – Mr. Butler explained the ARS program and bringing blighted areas back into habitable dwellings for Grayson County Citizens.

NEW BUSINESS

- EDA Grant Application – Steve/Kit Marshall - Mr./Mrs. Marshall came to the EDA with a new endeavor called the Acorn House – plans are to turn it into a vacation rental to include local amenities, noting that they currently own two (2) more commercial buildings – seeking a \$12K grant to meet their timeline of one (1) year or less to completion – Mr./Mrs. Marshall noted that since they are both involved in the Town of Independence, feel it’s not appropriate to ask the Independence Town IDA for any kind of monetary help. Mrs. Cornett explained the Tourism Zone and noted that the Marshalls have applied for the Tourism Zone and incentives – not every Air BnB is approved.
- Chamber of Commerce Dues – Discussion took place on the EDA paying the \$8K dues – made the motion to approve the EDA to pay the dues and become more involved with the Chamber; duly seconded by Mrs. Hash. Motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Baumgardner, Mr. Belton, and Mrs. Shearin all abstained.
- High School Welding Center – Mr. Butler explained the \$100K request from Mr. Kelly Wilmore, Grayson County School Superintendent, to put a welding center in the high school – discussion took place regarding the ask and how to mold the agreement – Mr. Wilmore will be invited to the next meeting.
- Meeting Time – EDA members will look at their options on meeting date and times.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Hash made the motion to go into closed session for discussions relating to the acquisition or disposition of real property pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(4) of the Code of Virginia involving ARS; duly seconded by Mr. Baumgardner. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Hash made the motion to come out of closed session; duly seconded by Mr. Rascoe. Motion carried 7-0.

Whereas, the Grayson County Economic Development Authority has convened a closed session on the 21st day of May 2024, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Economic Development Authority that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed session to which this certification resolution applies, and (II) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors with recorded confirmation from members as follows: Todd Cannaday – I so certify; Gary Rascoe – I so certify; Elizabeth Hash – I so certify; Jason Baumgardner – I so certify; Kenneth Belton – I so certify; Elizabeth Shearin – I so certify; Darin Young – I so certify.

ADJOURN

- Mr. Cannaday made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Mrs. Hash.
Motion carried 7-0.