

May 11, 2020

**MEETING OF THE POWHATAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD VIA TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCE IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MAY 11,
2020 AT 6:00 PM**

EDA Members Present: Sen. John Watkins, Chairman
Dan Jones, Vice-Chairman
Andrea Weber
Russ Holland, Jr.
Bob Gibson

Staff Members Present: Bret Schardein, Interim County Administrator
Roxanne Salerno, Economic Development Program
Manager
Ramona Carter, Public Works Director

Absent: Tim Benusa, Treasurer
Matt Schiefer

A. Call to Order

Chairman Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and noted that all members were present with exception of Mr. Benusa and Mr. Schiefer. Mr. Gibson joined at 6:09 p.m. A quorum was established.

B. Meeting Minutes from March 9th, 2020-

Mr. Jones motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Weber seconded the motion. Mr. Jones, Mrs. Weber, Mr. Holland, Mr. Gibson and Chairman Watkins voted AYE.
MOTION Passed (5/0).

C. Treasurer's Report-

No report this month.

D. Old Business-

a. Updates-

FBUC- Ms. Carter reported the latest update to the board in regards to the conversations about the Founders Bridge Utility Contract, which was discussed at the February 24th, 2020 meeting and determined that the Board of Supervisors would no longer pursue the agreement due to the contract not being in the best interest of the County. The agreement had some concerns over the limits and boundaries on water use that would diminish any Economic Development opportunities for Powhatan. Mr. Schardein gave the perspective of the Board of Supervisors and advised that there was a decision for

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staff to no longer spend time on a project without board interest. Chairman Watkins asked Ms. Carter for a report of revenues and expenditures of the water on Rt. 60 for the EDA board as well as anticipated numbers from Founders Bridge versus what the County pays Chesterfield.

Chairman Watkins also asked for the minutes from the Board of Supervisors meeting from the East/West Communities public hearing.

E. New Business

- a. Economic Development Response to COVID-19** – Mrs. Salerno reported the actions taken by the Economic Development department in response to COVID-19 for businesses. The creation of a special business resources page on the Yes Powhatan ED website was created, a restaurant guide with GIS mapping. Road banners have been placed throughout the County to inform businesses where to find business resources. The ED department has joined in with other regional ED departments and Chambers for multiple weekly calls to discuss various responses to business issues during COVID-19. The ED office has collaborated with the Powhatan Chamber for Small Business week from May 4-8th to offer different program including the annual Business Appreciation event which was turned into a panel discussion webinar on branding.

The ForwardRVA through ChamberRVA project was discussed for Powhatan's participation which would offer free PPE toolkits to small businesses that need supplies to assist in re-opening. The board discussed possible funding to support this project. The board asked staff to talk with the Powhatan Chamber to see if there was any possible collaboration for the funding.

Mrs. Salerno asked the board if there was any consideration from the EDA of a possible grant or loan program locally to small business to assist in COVID-19. The board discussed the uncertainty of administering loans and also the uncertainty of the needs of businesses of this time. Mr. Jones brought up the Powhatan Chamber's previous grant program that was aimed at assisting small businesses, which is no longer active. The board asked staff to talk to Powhatan Chamber about this as well.

The board also discussed future of re-opening and areas of assistance that can be provided to businesses. Guidance on curbside and how to control the masks requirements were suggestions for re-opening guidance along with continued support for the business community.

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- b. **Economic Development Monthly Reports for March and April 2020** – Mrs. Salerno presented the March & April reports to the board with mention of certain highlights of interest and asked if there were any questions.

F. **Closed Session and Certification**- No closed session needed.

G. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jones made the motion and Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. Mr. Gibson, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Weber, Mr. Holland and Chairman Watkins voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (5/0).**

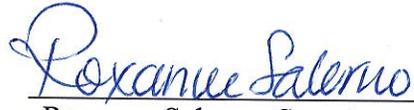
The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Sen. John Watkins, Chairman
Economic Development Authority

8/3/20

Date



Roxanne Salerno, Secretary
Economic Development Authority

8/3/20

Date