

January 9, 2023

**MEETING OF THE POWHATAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM, 4290 ANDERSON HIGHWAY  
IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, JANUARY 9, 2023 AT 6:00 PM**

**EDA Members Present:** Dan Jones, Chairman  
Frank Rennie, Vice-Chairman  
Tim Benusa, Treasurer

**Absent** Matt Schiefer  
Russ Holland, Jr.

**Staff Members Present:** Bret Schardein, Interim County Administrator  
Roxanne Salerno, Economic Development Manager

**Guests:** Justin Harris, Whitting Turner  
Brian Gould, Whitting Turner

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that all members were present with the exception of Mr. Schiefer and Mr. Holland. A quorum was established. Mr. Jones welcomed guests who introduced themselves.

**B. Election of Chairman**

- a. **Chairman** – Mrs. Salerno opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the EDA. Mr. Rennie made a motion to nominate Mr. Jones as Chairman. Mr. Benusa seconded the motion. Mr. Benusa and Mr. Rennie voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**

**C. Election of Officers**

- a. **Vice-Chair** – Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the EDA. Mr. Benusa made a motion to nominate Mr. Rennie as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Schiefer seconded the motion. Mr. Benusa, Mr. Rennie and Chairman Jones voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**
- b. **Treasurer**- Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer of the EDA. Mr. Jones made a motion to nominate Mr. Benusa as Treasurer. Mr. Rennie seconded the motion. Mr. Jones, Mr. Rennie and Chairman Jones voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**
- c. **Secretary** – Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations for Secretary of the EDA. Mr. Rennie made a motion to nominate Mrs. Salerno as Secretary. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Benusa, Mr. Jones, Mr. Rennie and Chairman Jones voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**

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**D. Adoption of the 2023 By-laws**

The by-laws were presented as 2022 by-laws with no changes. The board did not request any additions or deletions. Mr. Rennie motioned to approve the 2023 by-laws as presented. Mr. Benusa seconded the motion. Mr. Benusa, Mr. Rennie and Chairman Jones voted AYE.

**MOTION Passed (3/0).**

**E. Adoption of 2023 Meeting Schedule** – Mrs. Salerno presented the draft 2023 meeting schedule. Mr. Rennie made a motion to adopt the schedule as presented. Mr. Benusa seconded the motion. Mr. Benusa, Mr. Schiefer, Mr. Rennie and Chairman Jones voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**

**F. Meeting minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – Mr. Rennie motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Benusa seconded the motion. Mr. Rennie, Mr. Benusa and Chairman Jones voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**

**G. Treasurer’s Report-**

Mr. Benusa presented the board with the treasurer’s report. The balances of the EDA accounts were \$3,516.58 for the checking account and \$54,130.80 in the Certificate of Deposit account.

The board discussed the continued funding of the Capital Region Small Business Development Center for the next three years which the board would like funded by the Board of Supervisors budget. Mr. Rennie motioned that the EDA endorse funding for the Capital Region SBDC office be included in the Board of Supervisors budget for this year under the Economic Development Department. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Rennie, Mr. Benusa and Chairman Jones voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**

**H. Old Business-**

**a. County Entrance Signage Discussion-**

- i. Lighting on Newest Sign-** Mrs. Salerno gave the board an update on the county entrance sign lighting which is being looked into with the sign company to see what will support the sign with no electricity and minimal hinderance.
- ii. Future Sign Plans-** Mrs. Salerno presented the board with options for future signs at various entrances into the County and pointed out which ones would have the most impact for marketing. The board asked for traffic counts at 522, Rt.60 at Cumberland County line and Giles Bridge Road. The board discussed potential funding sources for future signs and what signs would be most appropriate.
- iii. Sponsorship of Landscaping around Rt. 60 Main Entrance Sign-** Mrs. Salerno discussed the idea to have some new landscaping done at the main

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entrance sign on 60 which could potentially be sponsored by local businesses.

The board suggested reaching out to local nurseries for planting guidance.

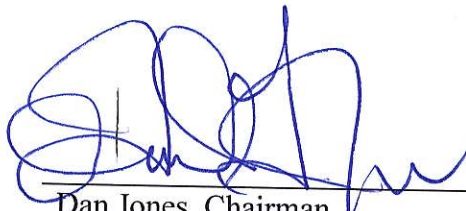
- b. Discussion of Rural Solar Development Coalition-** Mrs. Salerno presented some preliminary information on the rural solar development coalition which has 15 member counties. Mr. Rennie provided an overview of the history of the coalition and what they do for rural localities to support them in future developments of solar projects. The board discussed having Mr. Rennie make a more in-depth presentation on the coalition with an invitation to the Board of Supervisors at a future EDA meeting.

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


**J. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rennie made the motion and Mr. Benusa seconded the motion. Mr. Rennie, Mr. Benusa, and Chairman Jones voted AYE. **MOTION Passed (3/0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

  
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Dan Jones, Chairman  
Economic Development Authority

3/16/23  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roxanne Salerno, Secretary  
Economic Development Authority

3/14/23  
Date