

MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2008
Old Northumberland Courthouse
Heathsville

Welcome: Call to Order.

Chairman Lee Allain called the February 19th meeting of the Northumberland County Economic Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: William Kling, Vice Chairman/District II, Kathleen M. Hanley, Secretary; C. Bruce Andrews/District V; John A. Hendrickson/District IV; Melissa Bunns, District III; Kenneth Eades, County Administrator, Richard Haynie, Supervisor and Joseph Madej, Executive Director. Also present were guests David Fine, George McGhee and George Thompson.

The Treasurers report of the status of the MiniLoan fund and the Policy and Procedures Handbook were briefly discussed.

The Economic Development Commission immediately went into Executive Session to consider the MiniLoan application of T-SYSTEMS corp. Executive Session is necessary because of the confidential nature of the information addressed. George Thompson, President of T-SYSTEMS presented his application for a MiniLoan to purchase parts to assemble the emergency vehicle lights to fill the current small orders. He has received a verbal order for a large number of lights which he expects to be confirmed with a Purchase Order.

The Economic Development Commission exited Executive Session and voted to approve a \$5000 loan to T-SYSTEMS. The vote was: 4 – for; 1 – nay, and 1 – abstention. Commissioner Hendrickson voted nay and Chairman Allain abstained.

The special meeting of January 30 to establish goals for year 2008 was reviewed. During that meeting 41 “challenges” were identified which were grouped in to 8 categories. Five of the categories were selected for establishing specific goals. These five categories are: Marine enterprise, Infrastructure, Service & products, Continuous assessment and Education. The Executive Director will suggest a specific goal for each category at next month’s meeting.

Executive Directors Report:

- Local Business Contacts / Support
 - Visits to Businesses:
 - “Bobby’s Marine Service” & “Athena Vineyards & Winery”
 - Request to rezone 1.2 acre parcel in Glebe Point from Business to Residential:
 - A motion was passed to instruct the Executive Director to attend the Planning Commission meeting to recommend denial of the rezoning request. The vote was 5 – for, with one abstention. Vice Chairman Kling abstained because of his position on the Planning Commission.
 - Request for County assistance for First Baptist Church Child Care Institute:
 - Although the Economic Development Commission supports the Child Care Institute, the only funds allocated to the Commission are for office supplies. A request for monetary assistance must be made directly to the Board of Supervisors.
 - Appropriation request to Senator Jim Webb:
 - The Executive director was instructed to submit an appropriations request to Senator Jim Webb for Mid-Bay Marine Center funding.

- Metrics Highlights
 - Employment: Northumberland County's December unemployment rate of 4.4% is shown on the included chart of unemployment data from December 2006 to December 2007. Also shown is the average for Virginia (3.3%) and the United States (4.8%). Northumberland County's unemployment rate for December 2007(4.4%) was higher than November's 3.3% and also higher than the rate for December 2006(3.6%).
 - Building Permits: Included in the portfolio is a summary which tabulates the number of homes permitted and construction costs for the month of January and Year-to-Date. For January 2008, the number of homes (12) is less than the number of homes (18) permitted a year ago. The estimated value of these 12 homes is \$4.4 million; the estimated value of the 18 for January 2007 was \$9 million. The estimated cost year-to-date is same as the month of January.

Upcoming Activities

- 2/21 Northumberland County Planning Commission monthly meeting
- 3/3 Vision 2048 "Better Models for Development" Committee monthly meeting
- 3/6 Migrant and Seasonal Workers Council monthly meeting
- 3/13 Va. Employment Comm Workforce Center Partnership Advisory quarterly meeting
- 3/13 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting (Economic Development Commission Quarterly report)

County Administrator's Comments:

The County will be submitting a grant request for an engineering study to consider extending the Reedville sewer system into Fairport.

Adjournment: 9:45

Next Meeting: March 18, 2008

Minutes recorded by: Joseph J. Madej, Executive Director