

May 22, 2008

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at the Council Room of the Wytheville Municipal Building located at 150 East Monroe Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Freeman, Chairman
Linda DiYorio
Dana R. Pack
Foy Patton

Tom W. Jones
David Elmore
William F. Snyder, Vice Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

R. Cellell Dalton, Wythe County Administrator
Raymond E. Matney, Rural Retreat Town Manager
C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Wytheville Town Manager

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present. Dr. Snyder offered the invocation, and Mr. Freeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

Mr. Freeman asked if there were any persons present who wished to address the board during citizens' time. There being none, Chairman Freeman proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—April 24, 2008, board meeting

Dr. Snyder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Dr. Hawthorne commented that several checks were for advertising and the golf tournament. Ms. DiYorio asked about check # 5563, and Dr. Hawthorne stated it was annual membership dues for the Southern Economic Development Council, Inc. Mr. Elmore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pack to approve the invoices. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Joint IDA of Wythe County

Check Register

For the Period From April 25, 2008 through May 22, 2008

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
5554	5/22/08	Alan R. Hawthorne	4,241.39
5555	5/22/08	Danielle M. Skeens	1,827.80
5556	5/22/08	Appalachian Power	62.58
5557	5/22/08	Blue Ridge Marketing	542.94
5558	5/22/08	Bluefield Daily Telegraph	140.90
5559	5/22/08	David L. Elmore	48.20
5560	5/22/08	Media General - TC/SWVA	300.29
5561	5/22/08	The Roanoke Times	353.76
5562	5/22/08	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00
5563	5/22/08	Southern Economic Dev Council	225.00
5564	5/22/08	Bankcard Services	76.77
5565	5/22/08	Xerox	267.86
5566	5/22/08	First Bank of Virginia	2,095.28
5567	5/22/08	VA Dept Of Taxation	372.34
5568	5/22/08	Sprint PCS	81.62
5569	5/22/08	Anthem Southeast Dental	74.23
5570	5/22/08	Principal Life Insurance Co.	91.68
5571	5/22/08	The Mount Rogers Dev Partnersh	6,899.75
5572	5/22/08	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	1,545.21
5573	5/22/08	Danielle M. Skeens	38.89
5574	5/22/08	Wytheville Golf Club	4,639.35
5575	5/22/08	Alan Hawthorne - Reimbursement	435.82
5576	5/22/08	Embarq	131.34
Total			25,593.00

OLD BUSINESS

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT—May 15, 2008

Dr. Hawthorne congratulated Mr. Elmore and the golf committee for a job well done. He stated everything went well and it was again well received. Mr. Freeman commented that this was the best tournament that he'd been too. He stated everything was well organized and the food was wonderful. Mr. Elmore thanked Ms. Skeens for her hard work on organizing the tournament. Dr. Snyder stated he had recently played golf with some players from Gatorade. He indicated they had played in the tournament and were very pleased with it.

UPDATE ON HSA/HIGH DEDUCTIBLE INSURANCE PLAN

Dr. Hawthorne gave a presentation on the health insurance plan with the recent updates and asked the board for reaffirmation on this plan. He stated that the plan had changed since the last presentation and the \$1200 deductible plan was no longer available. He stated the plan now is for \$1500 deductible, which still allows for a projected savings in premiums of about \$18,500 over a 10-year period. He remarked that the plan cost was more than the FY2008-2009 projected budget previously presented and that this would be addressed when the final budget is adopted. Dr. Hawthorne asked that the Joint IDA reaffirm that it would fund one-half of the \$1500 for each employee to cover the first half of 2008 HSA contribution as an incentive for staff to convert to the new plan. In response to a question by Mr. Elmore, he verified that additional employee contributions to their HSA would be from pre-tax dollars. Mr. Elmore made a motion to approve the plan as presented and Dr. Snyder seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hawthorne also commented that Wythe County is experiencing some tight budget times and that the approved increase in the Joint IDA budget was zero. The decision by Wythe County impacts the funding level from Wytheville and Rural Retreat as well. He indicated that at the next meeting he would propose how this would be addressed.

NEW RIVER WATER PLANT TOUR AND ENTREPRENEUR EXPRESS WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Dr. Hawthorne gave a detailed presentation on the tour of the water plant and the workshop.

OTHER

None

NEW BUSINESS

2007 VEDP PER CAPITA RANKINGS

Dr. Hawthorne gave a presentation summarizing 2007. Wythe County was the number three jurisdiction (and the top ranked county) in combined per capita ranking for jobs, investment, and announcements as reported by VEDP. Wythe County was the top ranked jurisdiction in 2006.

FANTASTIC 50 PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Hawthorne congratulated MTC Transformers and Mr. Hough and his team for recently being selected for the Fantastic 50 list. Mr. Freeman thanked Ms. Jennifer Jones and the Chamber of Commerce for nominating the company for this award. Dr. Hawthorne commented that this is the second recognition the company have received in the past couple of months.

Wytheville Company Selected for Fantastic Fifty Award

WYTHEVILLE—This year's Virginia Business and Virginia Chamber of Commerce Fantastic Fifty, a listing of the 50 fastest growing privately held Virginia companies, includes MTC Transformers (formerly known as Magnetic Technologies) of Wytheville. In the just released annual listing MTC Transformers ranked as the 43rd fastest growing company in the Commonwealth based on revenue growth over the past four years. MTC Transformers is one of only a few companies to make the list that is located outside the Northern Virginia/Richmond/Hampton Roads area of the state. The company was nominated by the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce. Company representatives attend the awards banquet in Chantilly on May 1 at the Westfields Marriott. A listing of the Fantastic Fifty is included in the May issue of Virginia Business magazine (p. 41).

"On behalf of the entire community, we extend our congratulations to all of the folks at MTC Transformers," said Mayor Trent Crewe. "We are all proud of their recent impressive accomplishments."

MTC Transformers is headquartered in Wytheville, Virginia, with a newly opened repair service division in Louisville, Ohio. The company designs, manufactures, and services dry electrical transformers.

GRANT APPLICATION TO TOBACCO COMMISSION FOR PER FUNDING

Dr. Hawthorne referred to the Joint IDA's initiative to make Progress Park attractive for a data center. One component to this plan is to provide the option to use recycled water for cooling. He stated the opportunity is there, and that he is putting together a grant application to pursue this green energy opportunity. Dr. Hawthorne stated that he is checking with MRPDC to see if they will contribute as well. Mr. Elmore asked how much the Joint IDA would need to contribute to this plan and Dr. Hawthorne replied \$5,000 if no funding is received from Mt. Rogers. Dr. Snyder made a motion to approve the draft resolution and to allow Dr. Hawthorne and Mr. Freeman to execute paperwork as deemed appropriate to apply for grants. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT

Dr. Hawthorne stated there are several momentous dates coming up next year. He proposed that the Joint IDA hold a celebration along with other partners in Progress Park. He suggested holding a celebration in the inland port area of Progress Park. He stated he was thinking along the lines of a carnival type event for families that would attract community members with companies perhaps offering tours to employees (and maybe others) of their facilities. He stated he would like to see a committee formed to look into the possibility of such an event. Ms. DiYorio stated this would be a huge undertaking and would involve a lot of work from any and all parties willing to take part. Dr. Hawthorne stated that he understood this and thought that a year's lead time for planning would be needed. Ms. DiYorio asked about the funding of the event and Dr. Hawthorne stated that key employers would contribute. Mr. Elmore suggested that Dr. Hawthorne discuss this matter with the partners to see if they are really interested in pursuing this event and report his findings at the next board meeting. Mr. Elmore stated that once all parties involved confirm their participation, then a committee can be formed and more details can be discussed. Mr. Freeman asked the board members to be thinking about serving on this committee for the next meeting.

RURAL RETREAT INDUSTRIAL PARK UPDATE

Dr. Hawthorne commented on the undeveloped property that KPA currently owns in the Rural Retreat Industrial Park. He stated that Klockner was recently acquired by The Blackstone Group, and they might be interested in selling the property located north of the KPA facility. Dr. Hawthorne stated there was approximately 42 acres with good infrastructure already in place. He indicated that the property was assessed at \$440,000. He recommended the Joint IDA investigate this possible opportunity. The board members agreed this was a good opportunity. Mr. Elmore suggested that Dr. Hawthorne continue pursuing this possibility without incurring any expenses and present it to the board upon completion. The board members were in favor of this suggestion.

W-W-B CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTORY/RELOCATION GUIDE ADVERTISEMENT

Dr. Hawthorne stated the chamber will be publishing a new directory soon and that he proposed the Joint IDA continue with a half-page ad as in the past. He commented that the directory goes to a lot of different people outside the community. Mr. Freeman asked if the same ad would be used as in previous years. Dr. Hawthorne stated yes but welcomed any suggestions or modifications that the board deemed appropriate as long as it fit into the time schedule. Dr. Snyder made a motion to buy a half-page ad, following similar format allowing Dr. Hawthorne to make changes to the ad at his discretion. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Dr. Hawthorne presented the spring newsletter and reported that the newsletter had been posted on the Joint IDA website.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR CANDIDATE

CLOSED SESSION AS PERMITTED BY CODE OF VIRGINIA §2.2-3711(A)(1) TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATING TO THE HIRING OF AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR CANDIDATE AND STAFF COMPENSATION

Mr. Jones made a motion to enter into closed session as permitted by Section 2.2-3711(a)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Code of Virginia to discuss personnel matters relating to the hiring of an associate director. The motion was seconded by Dr. Snyder and passed unanimously. Mr. Jones made a motion, and Dr. Snyder seconded, to reconvene in open session. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jones moved that the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat certify that, in the closed meeting just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter (i) specifically identified in the motion to convene in a closed meeting and (ii) lawfully permitted to be so discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. Motion was seconded by Mr. Elmore and passed.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certificate by the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville and Rural Retreat that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville and Rural Retreat, 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 meeting to which this certificate resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat.

Motion was passed with the following roll call vote:

AYES:	William Snyder	Tom Jones
	Joe Freeman	Dana Pack
	Dave Elmore	Linda DiYorio
	Foy Patton	

NAYS: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

PROJECTS UPDATE

Dr. Hawthorne gave an update on current projects, indicating that the slower economy is pushing the decision point further into the future for many projects.

OTHER

Dr. Hawthorne stated that he would be attending a VEDP “lunch and learn” event sponsored by the aCorridor and member jurisdictions next week. He indicated that while in the area, he would be meeting also with DBA to discuss financing for potential projects.

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board of the Wythe County Board of Supervisor’s public hearing on the proposed fencing ordinance change. Dr. Hawthorne asked any board members who were available to attend the hearing next Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 9:05 in order to become better informed on this topic. He stated he would be attending also. Mr. Sharitz commented that this meeting was for clarification and to gain a better understanding of the proposed change. After further discussion, it was decided that Dr. Hawthorne should issue a letter the Board of Supervisors requesting that the Joint IDA have a chance to comment on the topic before any final decisions are made.

Dr. Hawthorne asked the board if they would like for the executive budget committee to meet again before the next meeting to discuss the proposed budget. Mr. Freeman stated that he saw no need to do so and that Dr. Hawthorne could bring the options before the board at the next meeting. Dr. Snyder remarked he had no problem with that. Ms. DiYorio asked about the shortfall in the budget figures and Dr. Hawthorne stated that he would evaluate the options and that he felt comfortable with presenting them at the next meeting.

Mr. Bucky Sharitz commented on the New River Water Authority plant and the big change it was bringing to Wythe County. Mr. Sharitz informed the board that there had been a concern on the signage at the water plant. He stated due to homeland security issues brought forward by the Town of Wytheville, the LEPC had recommended the use of a small sign and spending the remaining monies on security for the facility. He further stated that a lot of different organizations had input on this facility and the signage.

Mr. Sharitz discussed the potential agricultural expo center in Wythe County in the Max Meadows area. He stated the Board of Supervisors had been looking into such a facility as a draw for diverse activities such as automobile shows, livestock, flea market, and concerts. He stated this would be a multi-purpose facility. He commented that the Board of Supervisors had visited some centers around the state and those that they visited had been very successful. He informed the board if they would like to see the presentation that the Board of Supervisors reviewed, Mr. Eric Crowgey would be the contact person. Mr. Hawthorne stated that he felt further education on this matter was appropriate and stated that arrangements would be made to invite Mr. Crowgey at the June board meeting for a presentation. Mr. Jones commented that he had seen the presentation and felt that it would be beneficial for the Joint IDA to review.

Mr. Sharitz stated that Wythe County's awareness of its revenue stream is greater now than at the first of the year and perhaps more funding flexibility exists now. The expo center will be in need of someone to assist with grant writing and other activities. Up to this point, the effort had been undertaken by volunteers. Mr. Sharitz stated that Mr. McDaniel had suggested having the new Joint IDA associate director assist in this capacity. He said this was for consideration only.

Mr. Pack stated it was nice to see Mr. Sharitz back at the board meeting.

Mr. Pack stated that he felt the Board of Supervisors would not make a decision on the proposed fencing ordinance change at the public hearing.

Mr. Pack asked if the Joint IDA had any by-laws, and Dr. Hawthorne responded yes. They were included on the CD provided at the orientation meeting. Dr. Hawthorne stated if he was unable to locate the by laws to please let him know, and he'd get a copy to him.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Mr. Freeman adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Joseph W. Freeman, Chairman

Attest:

Danielle M. Skeens, Secretary