

October 26, 2006

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2006, 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  
William F. Snyder, Vice Chairman  
George T. Johnstone, Treasurer

Danny B. Gordon  
David N. Johnson  
David Elmore

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Gerald Brewer

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**

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

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Mr. Freeman called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present. Mr. Gordon 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, he proceeded with the agenda.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 21, 2006 board meeting**

Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnstone, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

Dr. Hawthorne commented that check #5085 was for the paving of the Joint IDA parking lot. Mr. Gordon questioned check #5084. Dr. Hawthorne explained that this was the reimbursement check for his travels and that he had traveled to numerous conferences and meetings this month. Mr. Gordon inquired how Dr. Hawthorne paid these expenses, and Dr. Hawthorne explained he paid for them with cash. Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Dr. Snyder, to approve the invoices. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Joint IDA of Wythe County**

#### **Check Register**

For the Period From Sep 22, 2006 to Oct 26, 2006

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
5068	10/26/06	Appalachian Power	55.94
5069	10/26/06	Anthem Southeast Dental	94.89
5070	10/26/06	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	1,505.38
5071	10/26/06	Chamber of Commerce	500.00
5072	10/26/06	Companion Life Insurance Co	75.92
5073	10/26/06	Anthem Life	71.55
5074	10/26/06	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00
5075	10/26/06	Sprint PCS	87.16
5076	10/26/06	Embarq	123.51
5077	10/26/06	Embarq	8.71
5078	10/26/06	Town of Wytheville	15.99
5079	10/26/06	Bankcard Services	217.04
5080	10/26/06	Xerox	368.36
5081	10/26/06	Alan R. Hawthorne	4,045.13
5082	10/26/06	Danielle M. Skeens	1,744.56
5083	10/26/06	Michael B. Webb	2,135.53
5084	10/26/06	Alan Hawthorne - Reimbursement	879.30
5085	10/26/06	First Bank of Virginia	2,915.07
5086	10/26/06	VA Dept Of Taxation	483.76
5087	10/26/06	Danielle M. Skeens	26.26
5088	10/26/06	Mike Webb	8.01
5089	10/26/06	Taylor's Asphalt Paving & Sealing	3,100.00

**Total 19,562.07**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **JOINT IDA PARKING LOT PAVING**

Mr. Webb reported that Taylor's Paving and Sealing completed the paving in one day. He shared photos of the paving.

### **GATORADE TOUR REPORT**

Dr. Hawthorne commented on the recent tour of the new Gatorade facility provided to local officials and Joint IDA board members. He stated this was an exciting activity and was pleased that the Joint IDA board members were able to attend. Dr. Hawthorne reminded all board members of the upcoming Gatorade dedication to be held on Friday, November 3, 2006, at 10:00. He asked that they arrive about fifteen minutes early, as Gatorade wants to get started promptly.

### **JOINT IDA ANNUAL AUDIT STATUS**

Dr. Hawthorne stated that the auditors came last Friday, and will return tomorrow to wrap-up their work. They were pleased with that they found last Friday. Dr. Hawthorne anticipated receiving a draft report from the auditors in about one month.

### **PROGRESS PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Mr. Webb shared a slide show of Progress Park construction photos. The slides included aerials of the new AEP substation, Kents Lane, and the Gatorade and Amcor buildings. Dr. Hawthorne noted that Wythe County would probably pave Kents Lane this fall to avoid anticipated inflation in paving costs projected for the spring. Mr. Freeman asked if there will be entrance markings at the southern entrance like there are at the northern entrance. Dr. Hawthorne replied that there are no plans at this time. Mr. Gordon inquired if some of the construction photos will go on the website, and Dr. Hawthorne replied that they would.

### **ANNUAL CHAMBER DINNER**

Dr. Hawthorne updated the board on the Chamber dinner events. He stated all is set. Plaques are ordered and will be picked up in a few weeks. He further discussed the agenda for that evening and the limited time each speaker will have due to the governor being present. He informed the board that Chairman Freeman will announce the recipients of the tenure awards, but will not be presenting them with actual plaques at this time. The only awards that will be presented will go to Amcor PET Packaging and Camrett Logistics. Mr. Gordon informed the board that there were 265 tickets sold and a waiting list with 50 names. He stated this will be interesting to see how

that many will fit in the area provided.

## **OTHER**

Mr. Webb reported that an article about the Joint IDA Revolving Loan Fund appeared in the latest issue of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION ON LOCAL ECONOMY**

Dr. Hawthorne provided a presentation on the local economy. He presented a breakdown of the workforce by sector and the average wages associated with each sector. He highlighted the location quotients for each major Wythe County economic sector. He provided an extensive summary of Wythe County's economic development performance on a per capita basis compared to the state. Wythe County led the state in a weighted average of rankings in jobs, investments, and announcements on a per capita basis.

### **REPORT ON VEDA FALL MEETING/GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Dr. Hawthorne recently attended the VEDA fall meeting in Roanoke, Virginia on September 28 - 29, 2006, along with Mr. Webb. The focus of this meeting was on transportation trends. He stated this was a good conference overall. Governor Kaine presented his administration's economic development plan at the meeting. Ms. Skeens provided the board with the summary page of the governor's plan.

### **REPORT ON VIRGINIA TRADE CONFERENCE**

Dr. Hawthorne provided information on the Virginia Trade conference that he attended on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, in Roanoke, Virginia. He stated this conference was normally held in the Norfolk area, and he had not been able to attend in the past. Dr. Hawthorne stated the main topics were very engaged in the global economy and world demographics.

Dr. Hawthorne stated he also attended the Rural Virginia Summit on October 16-17, 2006, in Roanoke. He was able to interact with the secretary of agriculture, DBA representatives, and many others. He stated this was a great networking event with wonderful speakers that covered the vision of workforce.

## **GUEST COLUMN IN WYTHEVILLE ENTERPRISE**

Dr. Hawthorne recently submitted a guest editorial to the *Wytheville Enterprise*. Governor Tim Kaine had designated October 1-7, 2006, as Manufacturing Appreciation Week. Dr. Hawthorne felt this was a great opportunity to write about the successes of manufacturing in Wythe County.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

There were no project updates.

## **OTHER**

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board that Ms. Susan Evans, a math teacher at Rural Retreat High School, had received the prestigious honor of being selected as the Virginia Teacher of the Year. He stated she will go on to compete for the national honor as well. He commented that Ms. Evans would be recognized at the upcoming annual Chamber Dinner by Governor Tim Kaine. Dr. Hawthorne provided board members with a draft resolution of appreciation to send to Ms. Evans. Mr. Elmore made the motion, seconded by Mr. Johnstone, to sign the resolution. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS a quality educated workforce is a key factor in economic development success, and a factor that continues to increase in importance, and

WHEREAS for both new and existing businesses and organizations in Wythe County to be competitive in today's global economy, a high quality of K-12 education is crucial, and

WHEREAS Susan Evans, a math teacher at Rural Retreat High School, was selected as Virginia's Teacher of the Year, and

WHEREAS Susan Evans exemplifies the level of excellence in education that will contribute to the economic success of Wythe County:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat hereby recognizes the accomplishment of Susan Evans in being awarded Virginia's Teacher of the Year. The Joint Industrial Development Authority extends its appreciation for the outstanding education provided by Ms. Evans and wishes her well as she competes for National Teacher of the Year.

Adopted by the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 2006.

/s/ Joseph W. Freeman  
Joseph W. Freeman, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ Danielle M. Skeens  
Danielle M. Skeens, Board Secretary

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board that the manufacturing technology program was moving forward on purchasing equipment. Dr. Hawthorne stated he had met with the Wythe Manufacturing Council steering committee last week and discussed the equipment list. Dr. Hawthorne would like to seek grants to help purchase this equipment. He stated he will be looking to the Pepsico Foundation and the Tobacco Commission for funds. Dr. Hawthorne asked the board to authorize and approve him pursuing any and all options for funding, Mr. Gordon made the motion, seconded by Dr. Snyder, to seek funding for this equipment. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Skeens informed the board that she had participated in Career Day at Spiller Elementary on Friday, October 20, 2006. She stated she had the opportunity to speak with fifth, fourth, and first grade classes. She commented that the fifth grade class was very interested in economic development and the industries here in Wythe County. She stated that she was able to talk to them about career coaches in the middle school. She thanked Dr. Hawthorne and Mr. Webb for allowing her the opportunity to speak to the young individuals about her job and the Joint IDA office as a whole.

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board of the recent allegations of discrimination against Gatorade. He stated he had attended an open forum NAACP meeting earlier in the week where press was present. He stated there could be some coverage in the local newspaper on this topic. He reiterated that both Gatorade and Pepsi Bottling Group are diverse companies. He stated he would keep the board members abreast of the situation.

Mr. Elmore informed the board of his recent months in China. He stated that he had traveled extensively in China and had made many allies while there. He stated that China is often making parts, but sending them back to the United States for assembly. He challenged the board and Dr. Hawthorne to research this information, develop an agenda, and allow Dr. Hawthorne to come to China for two weeks to see first hand and make connections with their industries. He stated his experience in China had really opened his eyes and he believes there is a great need for Dr. Hawthorne to visit. He will only be in China for four more months and would like if at all possible for Dr. Hawthorne to be able to visit during this time, so he can help show him around and introduce him to proper individuals. Dr. Hawthorne commented he would research this information and get back to the board at a later date.

Mr. Webb informed the board that Textron Fastening Systems had been purchased by Platinum Equity.

Mr. Webb informed the board that Wythe County industries were large users of Virginia Department of Business Assistance Workforce Services programs. He explained that Workforce Services had ten Wythe County projects in FY 2007 leveraging \$120 million of investment and 955 projected jobs and 327 retained jobs. Dr. Snyder asked how this compares with other jurisdictions, and Mr. Webb replied that Workforce Services only provided him statistics on Wythe County. Dr. Hawthorne noted that, generally, Wythe County has significantly more Workforce Services activity than many other jurisdictions in the region.

Dr. Hawthorne asked the board if they would like to reschedule the December meeting, as he will be out of town on the scheduled date. Mr. Elmore said he would be able to attend if the meeting was rescheduled to December 21, 2006, and with no objections, it was the consensus of the board to reschedule the meeting from December 14, 2006, to December 21, 2006.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no other business, Mr. Freeman adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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Joseph Freeman, Chairman

Attest:

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Danielle M. Skeens, Secretary