

The Carroll County Economic Development Authority held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021 at the Carroll County Governmental Complex in Hillsville.

Members present: Chairman Larry Edwards, Vice Chairman Richard Sowers, Ronnie Collins, Mandi McCraw, Marty Hall, Martin Slate, Kay Carter

Executive Director: Donald Bryant

Others: Steve Durbin

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Edwards called the meeting to order.

Mr. Collins led in invocation and pledge.

CITIZENS TIME

Mr. Edwards limited verbal presentation to 5 minutes and advised that written statements could be submitted.

Steven Gregson:

Mr. Gregson thanked Ronnie Collins for the invitation to speak to the EDA. Mr. Gregson states "My concerns are where was the transparency? What was the hurry?" Mr. Gregson has concerns that someone was willing to "go to the altar" for a particular candidate – in reference to the hiring of the EDA part time Executive Director.

In Mr. Gregson's business experience in the past – the worst time to post for a position is November/December and notes only one applicant in December. He states that perhaps the application process should be altered to be more accommodating for interested parties who were unable to apply due to contractual lock ups, or general holiday pre-occupation.

Mr. Gregson begins to review the timeline, going back to November, with the chairman submitting the duties of the Executive Director for review. No copy of attachments of these duties was provided to the public.

Mr. Gregson takes issue that Richard Sowers had asked for a 30-day window in which to advertise the position if the board approves.

Mr. Gregson reviews the actions taken on 11/9 by the BOS – to approve allowing the EDA to advertise and hire a part time Executive Director.

Mr. Gregson takes issue that the motion in advertising had not run its course and yet a question about interviewing was being asked.

Mr. Gregson reviews the nature of the MOU, and the fact that it was left out of public packets.

Mr. Gregson takes issue with the fact that an EDA employee called an applicant into closed session with the BOS and announced that the individual was the new hire for the EDA, citing this as an inappropriate use of closed session.

Mr. Gregson cites LinkedIn and raises concerns that the Director had only worked for The Results Companies.

Mr. Gregson wants to know who signed the payroll without authorization prior to March 8.

Mr. Gregson's remaining concerns are all variations of the above. He references the county policy of "positions opened until filled" instead of a 30-day window.

After Mr. Gregson's statement, Mr. Edwards thanks the citizen for comment.

The chairman attempts to have meeting minutes deferred until the next meeting.

Ms. McCraw inquires to the nature of the deferment.

The chairman states the minute preparation and hand off was not properly orchestrated.

Ms. McCraw states that if the MOU was done at the March meeting, and minutes are not documented, the MOU is void.

The March EDA meeting only had around 2 minutes of video-taped footage, a portion of it was done at another location and neither the incoming nor outgoing director had prepared written minutes.

Mr. Edwards asks if the board wants to override his attempt at postponing minutes.

Citizen stands and has conversation with legal counsel and the chairman regarding a point of order.

Chairman asks if Ms. McCraw would like to raise a point of order.

Ms. McCraw's concerns involve the lack of documentation and the inability to recreate the March minutes from memory.

The chairman states the responsibility of minute keeping had fallen on the outgoing director and those that had previously kept them – going forward the Executive Director will do these.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 3/1 meeting were not documented by the outgoing director, nor were they recorded. Approval of the minutes has been delayed until the next meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT

Mrs. West reviewed claims:

Electric bills are a mix of prepaid and post-paid – showed 2 advances for bills not yet received.

Reviewed purchases made for the EDA (business cards, organizers, credit reports, Amazon bill.)

Other reviewed purchases include:

Fire alarm at childcare center, Pine tree removal at Woodlawn School, smoke detector replacement, Sands Anderson bill (issue related to transition in Sands Anderson billing process which led to repeat billing and receiving credit), Cana Rescue/Skyline Bank installment, stamp and envelope purchases, Vanguard Building overpayment – leading to a credit, fire truck purchase, bus note, bond payment to CCHS.

Mr. Edwards asked if there were questions and entertained a motion to approve the report.

Mr. Collins made a motion to accept which was seconded.

Ayes: All Ayes.

Mrs. West reviewed funds balance and restricted funds, and confirmed that the ACH issues between Vanguard, Skyline Bank and the EDA had been resolved. Reviewed Liddle Tykes, Holiday Trees and confirmed they are current with their payments.

Auditors made an entry related to the Carroll County fire truck payment; treasurer has not been receiving payment.

There are no unusual expenses.

Debt payments – standard USDA payments as well as payments for the Cana Rescue Building, CCHS bond reserve.

Confirmed claims were approved, reviewed designated incentive funds, and confirmed funds available.

Chairman asks if there are any questions, entertains motion to approve report:

Motion is made by Mr. Sowers and is seconded.

Ayes: All Ayes.

The motion is carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed Vanguard sewer back up issues, maintenance has advised that we will need to dig and install a new line.

Vanguard Plant Superintendent asks that we do some light grading/expansion on parking lot.

Mr. Edwards asks if there are any questions.

Ms. McCraw asks with the process would be to accomplish this (advertising?)

Mr. Bryant reviews available options and advertising is discussed. Mr. Edwards asks that we would want to consider receiving bids and Ms. McCraw asks for clarification on the required time line or if any exceptions exist for emergencies.

Mr. Durbin noted that we will need to consult the county purchasing manual for what is/is not a “small purchase” and act accordingly.

CLOSED SESSION –PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711

The chairman asks that the next item be discussed in closed session and asks for a motion.

Motion is made by Mr. Sowers and seconded.

Ayes: All Ayes.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Carroll County Economic Development Authority convened a Closed Session this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and on the motion to close the meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(A8) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors that such Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carroll County Economic Development Authority hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Session to which this certification applies, and (II) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which this Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Roll call certification as follows:

Ayes: (All Ayes) Larry Edwards, Kay Carter, Richard Sowers, Ronnie Collins, Martin Slate, Mandi McCraw, Marty Hall

The chairman asks that the next item be discussed in closed session and asks for a motion.

Mr. Collins made a motion to enter Closed Session under Section 2.2-3711 A1 and A3 and was seconded. The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

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Roll call certification as follows:

Ayes: (All Ayes) Larry Edwards, Kay Carter, Richard Sowers, Ronnie Collins, Martin Slate, Mandi McCraw, Marty Hall

New Business:

Liddle Adventures:

Mr. Bryant explains the need for Liddle Adventures to be allowed to purchase at their own expense a storage building for the purposes of building clean up.

The Chairman asks for a motion to allow Liddle Adventures. to locate a storage building on the property at her expense.

Motion is made by Mr. Collins and is seconded.

Ayes: All ayes.

The motion is carried.

Parcel ID 82-42-A

A lease needs to be created for this parcel as it is being used.

Motion for Moir Beamer to lease Parcel ID 82-42-A for \$1000 per year and is seconded.

Ayes: All Ayes

Motion carries – but tree stand needs to be removed. No hunting on any EDA property.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Collins to adjourn. The motion carried with all members signifying aye.