

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA (“EDA”)**

Held: Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 8:00 a.m., in the Board Room located in the County Administration Building, at 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Directors Present: At the commencement of the meeting, seven Authority Directors were present, as follows: Mr. Douglas Driver, Mr. Kevin Flint, Mr. Paul Wiseman, Mr. Neil Hayslett, Mr. Nathan Miller, Mr. Timothy Hulings, and Mr. Gary Burner.

Also Present at the Meeting: Stephen G. King, Rockingham County Administrator; Thomas H. Miller, Jr., Rockingham County Attorney; Patricia D. Davidson, Rockingham County Finance Director; Jessica G. Kilby; Rockingham County Deputy Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by the Chairman of the Authority, Mr. Driver.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Authority’s meeting on November 13, 2019, were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

2. Election of EDA Officers for Year 2020

After a brief discussion and upon due motion and approval thereof by the Authority, the slate of officers of the Authority were unanimously elected to office for year 2020, as follows:

Mr. Driver – Chairman;
Mr. Hulings – Vice-Chairman; and
Mr. Hayslett – Secretary/Treasurer

3. Technology Zone Economic Development Grant Status

Mrs. Davidson presented the economic development grant payout information for the tax year of 2019. She stated that each recipient had met all requirements, which were certified by the Commissioner of the Revenue and the Treasurer.

ACTION: Upon due motion, the Directors unanimously authorized Finance Director Davidson to issue December 2019 grant payouts as follows:

Digital Print	\$ 62,194.00
South Fork	\$ 209,192.00
South Fork	\$1,127,179.00
Mount Crawford	\$ 319,023.40

Mrs. Davidson reported that staff is tentatively scheduling a joint work session in January for the EDA Directors and the Board of Supervisors to review and discuss new guidelines for economic development incentive grants in the County. She explained that staff has extensively researched the County's current incentive program over the last year, focusing on the way each zone is structured, and the legality. Staff also researched economic development incentive programs of other localities. Mrs. Davidson pointed out that Rockingham County's grant program is very different from others. The County has four specific zones, with five specific participants. She said that after the review and many discussions, staff drafted a proposed incentive package to replace the existing policy. The proposed structure would allow for a County-wide technology zone, with standard minimum requirements, so that any business regardless of size, who pay machinery and tools tax, could qualify depending on the standard criteria. Mrs. Davidson said this is a good opportunity to help County businesses grow. She said the joint work session will allow the EDA and Board of Supervisors to review the proposal, ask questions, and provide input. Staff would like the new guidelines to be in place around the first quarter of 2020.

Chairman Driver indicated a County-wide incentive policy makes sense. He pointed out that large companies are typically aware of incentive programs of this nature, and encouraged staff to implement an educational program in order to make all qualifying businesses aware of the incentives.

4. OTHER BUSINESS.

Upon due motion, the Authority unanimously approved the EDA Directors' statutory \$200 per diem fees for attendance at the meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT.

Upon determining no other business for consideration by the Authority, Chairman Driver duly adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary/Treasurer