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**BRUNSWICK COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Joint Meeting with Brunswick County Board of Supervisors**  
116 W. Hicks Street  
Brunswick County Conference Center  
February 7, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

**IDA Board Meeting Minutes**

**The following Board of Supervisors Members were present:**

Dr. Alfonzo Seward, Chair, Sturgeon District  
Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris, Vice-Chair, Totaro District  
Mr. Welton Tyler, Powellton District  
Mrs. Glenda Gilliam, Red Oak District  
Mr. Reggie Owens, Meherrin District

**The following IDA Board of Directors Members were present:**

Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Chair, Sturgeon District  
Mr. Morris Taylor, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District  
Mr. Ray Thomas, Secretary / Treasurer, At-Large  
Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., At-Large  
Mr. Quintin Kelly, Powellton District  
Mrs. Jean Moody, Meherrin District  
Dr. Ronald Thornhill, Totaro District

**Also Present:**

Ms. Tessie Bacon, IDA Attorney  
Mr. Paul Jacobson, County Attorney  
Ms. Leslie Weddington, County Administrator, Brunswick County  
Ms. Alfreda Jarrett-Reynolds, Economic Director, Brunswick County  
Ms. Sylvia Allen, Brunswick Gazette, Reporter

**The following were absent:**

Ms. Anne Williams, Town Council, Town of Lawrenceville  
Ms. Lawanda Tatum, Mayor of Lawrenceville  
Mayor Don Dugger, Town of Brodnax Mayor  
Ms. Robert Hayes, Mayor of Alberta  
Ms. Beverly Ambs, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce

**I. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Approval of Agenda

**Board of Supervisors Motion:** Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Glenda Gilliam to approve the Agenda.

**Board of Directors Motion:** Mr. Ray Thomas motioned, seconded by Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Jr to approve the Agenda.

**Upon vote of those present motion was unanimously carried.**

### IV. Welcome/ Purpose –Chair Dr. Alfonzo Seward

Dr. Seward explained the purpose of this meeting is because it is important that Brunswick County Board of Supervisors and the IDA Board of Directors work well together to promote Economic Development in Brunswick County.

### V. Sledge Presentation / Update

Mrs. Cherie Nielsen, Project Associate Director introduced herself to the Board Members and Citizens. She stated the Sledge & Barkley Phase 1 project is almost complete and is currently working on Phase 2 design with a minor issue as far as placement of the stairwell and the elevator. The IDA is still waiting for the Governor's office to announce grants.

Dr. Seward, the Board of Supervisors Chairperson asked Mrs. Nielsen was that the end of your presentation? She stated "Yes". Dr. Seward asked, how much funding is the IDA waiting for the governor to award? And when is the IDA expecting to have an answer? Mrs. Nielsen stated the \$1.5 million dollars grant was due in December, however the governor's office has not announced it yet. Dr. Seward asked, is \$1.5 million going to be enough to complete the project. Mrs. Nielsen said, "No Sir". How much more will the IDA need to be able to complete the project? Mrs. Nielsen stated, \$2 million. Dr. Seward asked, given that the IDA is waiting for the \$1.5 million funding from the governor and once the IDA receive that grant, the IDA will need and additional \$2 million to complete the project, where will the \$2 million come from? Mrs. Nielsen stated, she has not determined that.

Mr. Welton Tyler, Board of Supervisors member asked, how much grant money was allocated to initially start the project? Mrs. Nielsen stated she did not know and would have to look back at the project files. Mr. Quintin Kelly, an IDA Board Member answered, it was \$400K for the phase 1 to shore up the building, fix the roofing system and structure in order to stop further deterioration of the building. Mr. Tyler asked, was the \$400K or grant money from the IDA account or grant money? Was there a deadline for the grant money to be paid back? When did you receive the grant money?

### VI. Brunswick County Produce Plant Presentation/Update

Ms. Alfreda Jarrett-Reynolds presented to the Boards on updates on the Brunswick County Produce Packaging Plant project. She discusses changes in market standards and need for repurposing farms. The project has faced delays in funding, including a USDA loan process and recent grant application. The project partners include Brunswick County, Southern Virginia Vegetable Packing and Old Dominion Organics.

Mr. Jordan Brandon mentioned, the project budget with equipment inside the packaging facility is over \$11 million, with the EDA funding contributing 19% and the famers providing 47% of the capital investment. Farmers will seek funding for equipment purchases, totaling \$5.2 million.

Mr. Richard Hite discussed his experience growing cabbage for commercial sale and mentioning the importance of having a facility for food safety and quality control. Mr. Hite is excited about the potential for their product to meet quality standards and be purchased by consumers. He also discussed the challenges with disease management in their farm and lack of support from local universities. Mr. Hite mentioned the importance of resources such as Virginia Tech Research Center and Virginia State University for growing produce and receiving direction on what to do in case of issues.

## VII. **Water/Wastewater**

Ms. Leslie Weddington mention to both Boards, the committee is searching for grants that will help fund the cost of improving the water system in Brunswick County. Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris commented, "It is past time for the conversation with dealing with the lack of water/wastewater for a many years. And putting together a committee to focus on that particular task is great. Mrs. Jarrett Harris stated, she is looking forward to hearing more information to help lead us in the right direction and also bring knowledge in this particular area.

## VIII. **IDA Audit Update**

Ms. April Beaty mention to the Boards, the IDA has not received the FY2022-23 final audit report back. Ms. Weddington stated, in order for the county to close out their books, the IDA needs to have their audit completed due to the IDA's audit being a component of the County's audit.

Mrs. Gilliam asked, what is the timeframe on receiving the audit in the previously years? Ms. Beaty stated, the auditors have recently finished with the office visit late January, so it will be 2-3 months after that when they are complete with their findings.

Mrs. Jean Moody asked Ms. Beaty to reach out to the auditors as soon as possible for Ms. Weddington, so that County can close out their books.

## IX. **Closed Session**

### **MOTION TO CONVENE CLOSED MEETING**

**February 7, 2024**

Mr. Ray Thomas motioned, seconded by Mr. Morris Taylor that The Industrial Development Authority of Brunswick County Virginia Board Members convene in closed meeting to discuss the following:

- i. As permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(a) (1), Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, public body concerning proposed County staff support for County Industrial Development Authority.

### **CERTIFICATION AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Ray Thomas that the Board certify that to the best of each Board member's knowledge:

- i. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open session requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed session to which this certification applies, and
- ii. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Chair, Sturgeon District | Mr. Morris Taylor, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District | Mr. Ray Thomas, Secretary / Treasurer, At-Large | Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., At-Large | Mr. Quintin Kelly, Powellton District | Dr. Ronald Thornhill, Totaro District | Mrs. Jean Moody, Meherrin District

**Voting Aye:** Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Chair, Sturgeon District | Mr. Morris Taylor, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District | Mr. Ray Thomas, Secretary / Treasurer, At-Large | Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., At-Large | Mr. Quintin Kelly, Powellton District | Dr. Ronald Thornhill, Totaro District | Mrs. Jean Moody, Meherrin District

Voting Nay:

Absent During Vote:

Absent During Meeting:

X. **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Mrs. Gloria Menyweather-Woods motioned, seconded by Dr. Ronald Thornhill that the meeting be adjourned.

**Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.**

The February 7, 2024, Board of Directors meeting of the Industrial Development Authority of Brunswick County was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.