

BRUNSWICK COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting
116 W. Hicks Street – IDA Office
November 10, 2020
6:00 P.M.

IDA Board Meeting Minutes

The following Board Members were present:

Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Member, Chair, Sturgeon District
Mr. Morris Taylor, Member, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District
Mr. Ray Thomas, Member, Secretary/Treasurer, At-Large
Mr. George Smith, Member, Totaro District
Mr. Will Ford, Member, Meherrin District
Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., Member, At-Large
Ms. Arnika Green, Member, Powellton District
Mr. Buck Brockwell, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Lawrenceville
Dr. Charlette Woolridge, County Administrator Ex-Officio Member

Also present:

Mr. Michael Dotti, Business Director
Dr. Alfonzo R. Seward, Board of Supervisors, Sturgeon District
Ms. Alfreda Jarrett Reynolds, Economic Director, Brunswick County
Ms. Tessie Bacon, IDA Attorney
Ms. Rebecca Spengler, Vice-Mayor, Town of Alberta
Mr. Anthony Taylor, Town Council, Town of Alberta

The following were absent:

Mayor Curt Williams, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Alberta
Mayor Don Dugger, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Brodnax

I. Call to Order

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

II. Invocation

The IDA Secretary began the meeting with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

III. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested the following items be added to the Agenda: Item “VIII. F. Electronic Participation.”

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Dr. Arthur Jarrett to approve the Agenda with the changes as requested.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

IV. Citizens Comments

Mr. Mike Dotti – Good afternoon Board thank you for coming. I'm aware of the comments I made last week in my private Facebook page and offended some members of the community. I sincerely apologize to anyone who was offended. My intent was just to be sarcastic and edgy, but certainly not to offend anyone. In retrospect, based on the reaction of the community, including my close friends, there was offence taken. I see now that the post was not a good choice. The comment was posted on my private page, I did not think for a second it would be taken so offensively. If I had anticipated the possible offense, I would certainly not have posted it. Again, I sincerely apologize the community and the IDA Board for offending anyone and for distracting for the good work that we are doing here at the IDA. Thank you.

IDA Chair – And the next item would be citizens comments. And citizens are allotted three minutes each to speak. And I would remind the Board that the Board is not to get involved in conversation backwards and forwards with the citizens as they speak. Do we have any citizens that would like to speak? Please state your name and your address so it is recorded in our minutes.

Monica McMillan – Good evening, IDA Board. My name is Monica McMillan. I'm at 329 French Meadow Road. Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868. The reason I'm here today, which I'm pretty sure most of you already know. I'm here today in regards to your IDA, Business Liaison Director for the comments that he placed on social media. I have a petition that's going around with quite a few signatures from quite a few citizens in the community, who was not happy about Mr. Dotti represented us here in our community with the type of comments that he states on social media. First of all, he stated a comment that was disgraceful and distasteful to quite a few citizens in a county who deals with mental health and mental health is not a joke. Not sure everybody could see me. Mental health is not a joke. We have people out here who are committing suicide. You have people out here who are saying a lot of different crazy things. And especially when you're saying it towards a president, which is uncalled for. So we the citizens of Brunswick County, quite a few of us, would like Mr. Dotti's position terminated. We do not want Mr. Dotti representing us here in Brunswick County, we have a variety of people, this is a melting pot area and we do not want his biases to be a distraction to our County. And not only that, there's quite a few other issues I want to talk about. I want to talk about with IDA about 120,000 from the business, when I found out when the county is going to get that money back as well, the business is no longer here. The telecommunications business, it's 120,000. We the citizens want to know when are we going to get those funds back as well. And there's also quite a few other comments that have been posted on social media that we're not happy about, again, as a leader from Brunswick County. Thank you.

IDA Chair – Is there another citizen that would like to speak?

Rita Goodrich – Yes, my name is Rita Goodrich. And I also saw the comments. And I have seen several comments, I'm now blocked from the page. But it made me question his ability to be able to service all of the citizens and community and it was very hurtful. And I've known I've seen you, I've talked to you, I've dealt with you. And I've never had a problem with you personally. But your Facebook page is very offensive. And I'm very, uh, been offended for quite some time. And I just don't I just question your ability to be

able to represent all of us. And that's why I'm here tonight. I just don't I just questioning your ability, because you have very, and your daughter even reached out to me and personally what you have personally going on doesn't affect your ability to run a town. But it's, it spoke a lot about your character and I could see it shining through your social media. And I just pray that is not the way that it seems. But that's how I perceive. And I'm not active in meetings and stuff in town. But to know that someone represents us in this magnitude, like your the Director, aren't you? So like, I'm questioning like? Do you have our best interest? Like, and now even my first mind was like he brought Pop's Grill here. Do they feel the same way? So I don't even want to patronize them. Because everything that you do now makes me question. Are they feeling the same way you feel? And it's just not right. Thank you.

IDA Chair – Is there another citizen? Please come back and say your address.

Rita Goodrich – 201 North Hills Drive Lawrenceville, Virginia. 23868. I'm a business owner. I have two businesses that operate from the address with trucking company and medical transportation company. I chose to open up my mental health skill building in McKenney, Virginia because I felt like some of the people in the position in this county were not for us. I was more welcome in McKenney. Thank you.

Karen Green – My name is Karen green. My address is 343 French Meadow Road, Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868. Good evening everyone. I'm coming to speak because I have concerns about what you put on Facebook what's been put on social media on Facebook. Concerning the recently not sworn in president elected president Biden. I've been a resident of this county all my life. And kinda call myself a good judge of character of people. And I love everybody, I don't see race I don't see color, I see people for who they are and what they are. When a person shows me who they are, and how they feel about their stance on, whatever, then I look at them a little differently or treat them accordingly. And the statement that was on Facebook, you know your it's disturbing. Because I have two I have a grown daughter and I have a son is in school here. And I have a grandson. And this we want this county to prosper and to grow. And all my life most of my life I'm not going to sugarcoat this brought the county has always been a somewhat redneck county and town certain induce we choose to ignore that. And but over the years, I started to really look at the individual, not everybody like that, you know, everybody's entitled to opinion. On how they feel but when it comes to when you hold a specific office as just as well as the things that number 45 has said since he's been in office, and it shows your character it makes me makes me question your character. Are you really for us? Are you really for the county? Are you really for the people? Or are you just for a set of people? Are you just for the white people? Or are you just for the African American people? Are you for the people as a whole? Because we all live here, we all pay tax dollars. We all pay taxes. I've been paying taxes since I was 18 years old. And I'm trying my goal as a parent has always been to raise my children to not look at a person's skin color that doesn't dictate how him or her is. it's look at their character, their characteristics, how he treats you, how you see them out and about in the community, the things that they're doing, to implore in this community you know, when we had where Pop's Grill.

IDA Chair – Is there another person?

Patricia Gee Bright – My name is Patricia Gee Bright. My residence is 4204 Hickory Road located in South Chesterfield, Virginia 23803. I also own property here in

Brunswick County. So I am a resident born and bred from Brunswick County. I stand here not even to bash you Mr. Dotti because you are a Trump supporter. You've been an advocate Trump supporter for the longest that I've personally met you. I do not agree with your politics, but that is your opinion. That's why we have Biparson. We have a quid pro quo, right. So if you know what that is, you give me something I give you something right. The CRC is called the Community Revitalization Coalition. Mr. Dotti, the IDA director used his resources to help a school drive for the CRC. Mr. Dotti used resources to help the CRC asking Pops, if they will help the CRC. Pops donated \$1,000. They hadn't even made \$1 in Brunswick County. So I say that to say this. We're talking about politics. We're talking about race. We're talking about character. We're talking about morals. It goes back to the what? The quid pro quo. He is in office and he's the IDA Director. Yes, he is. But he's using his resources to help the community. And that's what I charge each and every one of you to do, who has been elected or not elected. That's what if you can sleep good at night, and you have not done good in the community, then God be with you. But Mr. Dotti, I am a Brunswick County citizen, born and bred, and I thank you for helping the CRC. When nobody else wanted to help. Then put posts on Facebook, everybody talks about Facebook, and everybody in going on in here who's on Facebook posting, we will have a real good turnout. We didn't know how people really feel instead of going on Facebook and doing our opinions who really come up to come to meetings and I appreciate you for doing your part and helping the community I don't care how you feel, it's your personal feeling. You sleep how you sleep I sleep how I sleep. Help the community that's all I ask everybody who is in charge running this community.

IDA Chair – Next citizen.

Monica McMillan – Again, what else I wanted to state. I didn't bother to mention to you what the post is stated. I want you to understand what the post is stating. There was one post that stated Joe Biden didn't kill himself. Give me one second. There was another post that stated. I wish Hillary... Thank you all for your patience. The post stated taking advance. This is from Mike Dotti on his Facebook post. Taking advanced orders for Joe Biden didn't kill himself t-shirts. All proceeds will go with what will help pay for Beijing Biden's food taster. I didn't find it funny. There was another post that stated they wish that Hillary was the football player that must have murdered his wife. OJ, he had a post on his page that stated that. We're not here talking about what resources he could bring to the area. There is quite a few different people that can bring resources to our area. This is about his character, a posted on social media. If I mean, there's plenty of people in the community that I know of plenty of companies and other people that are helping providing resources like with which I work with a program called WIOA. I work with quite a few different churches in an area who needs food banks and things of that sort. So we're not here talking about what kind of resources he's bringing to the area, we're talking about his character, his morals and his values, and we as the citizens are not going to tolerate it. In regards to the CRC. I'm very aware of the CRC, there was a gentleman who started the CRC along with the young lady who was speaking, who also re-shared the post who was not happy about his actions on Facebook, if we want to talk about the CRC as well. And in regards to the young people that he's met, I helped connect Mike Dotti with them. I've worked with Mike Dotti in the past, but I still will not tolerate this behavior today. Thank you so much.

IDA Chair – Are there any additional citizens comments?

Rebecca Spengler – Hi, my name is Rebecca Spengler. I'm the Vice Mayor of Alberta. I live at 266 Little Mont Road, Alberta, Virginia. 23821. I just wanted to speak about my interactions. As you know, Alberta is trying to continue to grow and thrive. And Mr. Dotti and the IDA have been quite helpful. We're taking proactive baby steps. The one thing I did want to be very clear on is that whenever Alberta reaches out for additional help and resources, I feel that we are always met very fairly, on a factual, helpful level. And those are just the interactions that we, and I think I can speak for all of Alberta when we say that, you know, even though sometimes our outcomes aren't as, as we would wish, the resources, the advice, the help that we get from Mr. Dotti, in addition to the IDA has always been very fair and unbiased. And I did a lot of introspection before I decided to speak tonight, I wanted to be clear, I think sometimes people have a knee jerk reaction. And I really just wanted to, to make sure that the interactions that I had had with the IDA and Mr. Dotti had been unbiased. And I do feel that that is an accurate statement under representation. And I wanted to say my peace about that this evening, thank you very much for your time.

IDA Chair – Are there any additional citizens comments? On behalf of the Brunswick County Industrial Development Authority Board? I would like to let you know that we will take your comments under advisement. Thank you.

*The citizens comments are added verbatim per the recording.

V. Approval of Minutes

Regularly Scheduled Meeting – October 13, 2020

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Ms. Arnika Green to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 Regularly Scheduled Board meeting.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

VI. Consent Agenda

Ms. Melissa Boucher gave a brief update about the IDA financials and explained each document. She also informed the Board that the financial information isn't provided until right before the Board Meeting.

The Business Director said that an accounts receivable document will be added to the financials to help track what is owed to the IDA.

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Will Ford to approve the Consent Agenda.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

VII. New Business

A. Business Director Evaluation

The IDA Chair said the annual Performance Evaluation for the Business Director is due to be completed by Board members. She distributed copies of the evaluation to Board members and asked that the completed form be forwarded to Melissa Boucher for final compilation before the January 2021 monthly Board meeting. Board member Mr. Morris Taylor asked for an electronic version be sent to him.

B. Financial Review – Trina Stahl

Cancelled until January 2021 meeting.

C. Outdoor Grant

The Business Director said that the IDA, County of Brunswick, and Town of Lawrenceville are working together on seeking Outdoor Grants to improve outdoor recreational opportunities in Brunswick County.

D. James River Cardiology Septic

The Business Director said James River Cardiology contacted the IDA regarding sewer line problems at their location. The Town of Lawrenceville's policy is because it's on private property it is a shared line. Because of this there is a question as to who is responsible for replacing the lines. A lot of the old lines with the new use of running water have crumbled and need or have been replaced. The Business Director is working with Town of Lawrenceville officials to repair/replace the sewer lines.

VIII. Old Business

A. Tobacco Revitalization Grant Update

The Business Director said disbursements from the Tobacco Revitalization Grant are being prepared and the IDA will those funds upon release.

B. DEQ Update

The Business Director said issues with work done by the contractor at the I-85 Park in Alberta are being reviewed by the engineering firm of Dewberry.

C. FOIA/COIA

Ms. Melissa Boucher said that a law became effective July 1, 2020 that everyone participating as a Board Member for the IDA must to complete FOIA and COIA training. That training needs to be completed by December 31, 2020.

D. Engineers

The Business Director said the IDA is consulting with the engineering firm of Dewberry to address water and sewer issues.

E. Incentive to Small Businesses

The Business Director discussed the grants awarded to Lake Country General Store and to Moseley's Store. He said the IDA policy for offering grants to small businesses takes work and preparation, it is not a quick handout.

F. Electronic Participation

The IDA Chair told the Board that the electronic participation allows Board Members to join the meeting electronically.

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Dr. Arthur Jarrett to approve the Electronic Participation.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

Directors Report

Pop's has opened and is very busy. Business has picked up and they will be opening in a few weeks for full time sit down service. Subject to any COIVD related issues.

121 Hicks Street has a lease in the works to the attorney. The original tenet is still interested but not ready at this time. Reconstruction is complete along with the

emergency roof repair. The roof had water bubbles under the seal that were flowing into the walls. 804 Builders made the repairs for \$7,500.

Last Friday night was the Flowers on Main Ribbon Cutting. The event was well attended by over 25 people. Chase and Shaun thanks the IDA board many times. I want to thank Alfreda, Wendy and Daniel for their help.

James River Cardiology is preparing for their ribbon cutting later this month. I will let you know the exact date. They are now operating four days a week.

Four Apartments are close to completion. I anticipate that they will be done within the next 45 days. They are located above the Flower Shop and the Cardiologist. High level of business at the cardiologist have led to reduced work time for the contractors.

Walker Drug is under contract with an anticipated start date of December 15 for construction. The building has already been cleaned out at the purchasers expense. The purchaser paid for any grant work attributed to the building.

I have received the contract for 225 & 227 Main Street. Will review with IDA attorney.

We are waiting on funding for a large grant for our Sledge & Barkley project.

Met with St Paul task force and the St. Paul's for Life Group St. Paul's for Life is making great efforts to create a vision for this important property.

Stacy passed her drone licensing exam and we are very proud of her.

Most importantly Melissa is done with Chemo and doing well. Through the entire process, she, Melissa, and Gloria have kept us running and on track. More tough day's ahead but with God's help we will get through them.

Everything is legally in place to endorse the loan taken out by Echo World and signed by Carl Townsend.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Personnel/Executive – No Report

B. Finance – No Report

C. Property/Land Management – No Report

D. Prospect –No Report

X. IDA Board of Directors Comments

Mr. Ray Thomas said that he hasn't had the time to read everything circulating social media. He said but he hasn't seen anyone work harder for this community than Mr. Dotti. He mentioned all the projects in the past (clean up day, movie night) and things that can be accomplished in the future (community center).

Dr. Arthur Jarrett asked for Agenda items to be listed under closed session for transparency.

XI. Closed Session

MOTION TO CONVENE CLOSED MEETING

November 10, 2020

Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Will Ford that this Board convene in closed meeting to discuss the following:

As permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (a)(1), a personnel matter involving: Discussion of an employee and social media.

As permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (a)(3), A matter involving the disposition of publicly held real property

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:

Voting Aye: Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Ms. Arnika Green, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Will Ford, Mr. Morris Taylor, Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Mr. Ray Thomas.

Voting Nay: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

XII. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Will Ford, that the meeting be adjourned.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

The November 10, 2020 Board of Directors meeting of the Brunswick County Industrial Development Authority was adjourned at 8:00p.m.