

Industrial Development Authority Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2010

11:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chrystie Carey, Deputy County Attorney called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS

All IDA members present, except for Jack Rudloe—excused absence, Cypress Rudloe attended on his behalf. Chrystie Carey-Deputy County Attorney, (Amy Geiger, Traci Cash, Joe Hope, Tom Harrington, Leon Jacobs, Cynthia Paulson, Steve Fultz, Ted Gaupin). Citizens in attendance include Hugh Taylor, Commissioner George Green, Commissioner Lynn Artz, and Commissioner Alan Brock.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Oaths were administered by Evelyn Evans, Deputy Clerk

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Carey facilitated the election of officers (Chair & Vice Chair). Mr. Jacobs made a motion to nominate Mr. Ted Gaupin as Chair with a second by Mr. Hope. A motion was also made to nominate Joe Hope as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Artz mentioned that Mr. Gaupin currently serves as a representative to the Opportunity Park and serving as both the IDA chair may be a potential conflict of interest. A motion was made to nominate Joe Hope as the Opportunity Park representative/designee. Ms. Carey stated that she would further review the membership issue. Ms. Carey notified the committee of the Form 1 disclosures forms needed to be submitted to the local Supervisor of Elections prior to February deadline.

DISCUSSION

Confidential Information-Discussion took place regarding handling confidential information related to businesses, it was noted that even an inquiry is confidential, all activities considered confidential until an application is submitted to the IDA. Even at public meetings, the information is confidential and such businesses may be identified by project name.

Sunshine & Future Meetings-The group discussed the scheduling of future IDA Board meetings. Some members expressed not needing to meet monthly, and would be the discretion of the Chairman. IDA board meetings will all be publicly noticed. Ms. Carey stressed the importance of not violating sunshine law by emailing or communicating with each other and requested that members not “reply to all” on emails. Ms. Langston will relay inquiries or information from members or businesses to the Chair to facilitate communications. It was noted that Ms. Geiger and Mr. Hope both serve on the Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Carey suggested that one step down so as to not create a conflict. Ms. Carey will follow-up with the IDA regarding state laws on trade secrets.

WHAT IS AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY?

Ms. Carey described the function and purpose of an IDA. Mr. Gaupin noted that the previously established IDA acquired \$ approximately \$11,000.00. Mr. Fultz asked if staff could look into it. Various methods of advertising were discussed as a means of attracting businesses to Wakulla County such as bill boards. Mr. Fultz suggested looking at a target market by bringing an outside firm to examine—alongside the previous EDC/strategic marketing plan previously conducted for the County. Ms. Geiger volunteered to be the IDA’s representative in getting the word out with the Chamber and EDC. Mr. Jacobs suggested looking into the possibility of identifying symmetry with USDA and other rural economic development groups

REVIEW OF By LAWS and GUIDLINES-

Ms. Carey presented a draft of bylaws and procedures for the IDA’s consideration. Members requested staff to draft an application to bring back at a future IDA meeting. Mr. Fultz suggested requiring an application fee of either ½% or 1% of the administrative fees, to be used for economic development visits for potential candidates, advertising etc., In addition, IDA’s role in evaluating applications was discussed where the IDA Board will approve or not approve the application as a group. Mr. Harrington suggested approving a philosophical statement in an effort to streamline businesses or projects. Members expressed that it is the IDA Board’s responsibility to determine applicants are financially stable, and it is up to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the bonds and if they prefer allow the applicant to pursue business in the County.

OTHER--Members also discussed the existing enterprise zone, and mentioned a few examples of those taking advantage of the incentives. Mr. Jacobs suggested developing a list of successful EZ stories. Members suggested developing packets to use in marketing businesses, or sending to inquiring businesses. Commissioner

Artz suggested including a public comment section on future IDA agendas, as well as holding meetings at least quarterly. Commissioner Artz mentioned reconfiguring EZ in near future, and should target industry. Commissioner Artz also suggested that the IDA consider other factors than financial solvency such as effects of the businesses on our natural resources. Mr. Fultz noted that the airport could be an economic engine and may tie into eco tourism for those utilizing the area with disposable income. Mr. Fultz mentioned potential FDOT grant monies in the past to improve the airport and the desire to seek additional grant funds for the future. Mentioned that the IDA consider floating a bond to improve the airport citing Cedar Key as an example.

A future meeting was scheduled for March 10th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 pm

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:55 P.M.