

October 25, 2007

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the Council Room of the Wytheville Municipal Building located at 150 E Monroe Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joe Freeman, Chairman  
Linda DiYorio  
Danny Gordon

William F. Snyder, Vice Chairman  
David L. Elmore  
Tom W. Jones

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dale Yontz

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**

R. Cellell Dalton, Wythe County Administrator  
Raymond E. Matney, Rural Retreat Town Manager  
C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Wytheville Town Manager

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present. Mr. Gordon offered the invocation, and Mr. Freeman the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS' TIME**

Mr. Freeman asked if there were any persons present who wished to address the board during citizens' time. There being none, he proceeded with the meeting.

## **PRESENTATION - Career Coaches**

Ms. Debbie Stone of the Wythe County Technology Center gave a presentation on the career coaches, updating the board on their main goals and key focus age groups. She stated that Wythe County is the only county in Virginia to have career coaches in the middle schools. Ms. Stone elaborated on the experience each career coach brings to the position and their value to the program. She also informed the board of the training they had received and the networking they were involved with throughout the community. Ms. Stone discussed the recent implementation of the Jr. Achievement Program to Wythe County Public Schools.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -September 27, 2007, board meeting**

Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

Mr. Webb noted that check #5413 was for the Chamber dinner plaques. Check #5410 was for the audit, and Ms. Skeens added this included the Crossroads RIFA audit. Mr. Gordon inquired if this was more than last year, and Ms. Skeens confirmed it was. Mr. Elmore asked if check #5396 was for the Chamber Dinner tickets, and Ms. Skeens confirmed it was. Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Dr. Snyder to approve the invoices. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Joint IDA of Wythe County**

#### **Check Register**

For the Period From September 28, 2007 through October 25, 2007

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
5393	10/25/07	Appalachian Power	75.99
5394	10/25/07	Anthem Southeast Dental	99.22
5395	10/25/07	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	1,639.21
5396	10/25/07	Chamber of Commerce	500.00
5397	10/25/07	Principal Life Insurance Co.	105.86
5398	10/25/07	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00
5399	10/25/07	Sprint PCS	82.52
5400	10/25/07	Embarq	131.51
5401	10/25/07	Town of Wytheville - Postage	3.13
5402	10/25/07	Bankcard Services	342.27
5403	10/25/07	Xerox	267.86
5404	10/25/07	Alan R. Hawthorne	4,239.30
5405	10/25/07	Danielle M. Skeens	1,826.96

5406	10/25/07	Michael B. Webb	2,187.01
5407	10/25/07	Va Municipal League Group	8.00
5408	10/25/07	First Bank of Virginia	3,038.71
5409	10/25/07	VA Dept Of Taxation	508.81
5410	10/25/07	Robinson, Farmer, Cox Assoc.	5,665.00
5411	10/25/07	Alan Hawthorne - Reimbursement	511.72
5412	10/25/07	Danielle M. Skeens	43.17
5413	10/25/07	D&D Trophies	60.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>22,436.25</b>

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FINAL PLANS FOR ANNUAL DINNER MEETING WITH W-W-B CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Ms. Skeens reminded the board that the Joint IDA has eight tickets to the dinner and she needed to know who needed a ticket. Ms. DiYorio, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. Freeman indicated they already had tickets. Dr. Snyder, Mr. Elmore, and Mr. Jones asked for tickets.

### **OPTIONS FOR RECOGNIZING AND PRESENTING TENURE AWARDS**

Ms. Skeens explained that staff recommended presenting tenure awards at a separate ceremony rather than at the golf tournament. She suggested January 24, 2008, at the Wytheville Meeting Center. The board considered lunch versus dinner and decided lunch was better. The board debated charging a fee to recoup costs, and decided to seek sponsors rather than charge a fee. Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Ms. DiYorio, to have the lunch on January 24 for the presentation of industry awards. Mr. Webb asked if that motion authorized purchase of the plaques, and Mr. Gordon stated it did. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OTHER**

Dr. Hawthorne discussed a recent meeting between Appalachian Power and Progress Park industries. He explained that APCo placed high speed breakers on the line between Glen Lyn and Progress Park, and this should significantly improve power reliability.

The board reviewed coverage of the Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing expansion ceremony and the Gatorade LEED Gold Certification Award in *Commerce Quarterly* and coverage of Amcor PET Packaging in *Virginia Business* as one of the largest construction projects in the state.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **JOINT IDA CHRISTMAS OPEN-HOUSE/RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER**

Dr. Hawthorne recommended holding the Christmas open-house/retirement reception on December 20, 2007, between 11:30 and 1:30 at the Joint IDA office. The board approved by consensus with no discussion. Recently, while attending the VEDA conference, Robert Eley Johnson, the founding president of VEDA, was honored with a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary glass plaque, for his dedicated service to VEDA. Dr. Hawthorne stated that he had extended an invitation to Jane Johnson, widow of Robert Eley Johnson, to attend the Christmas open-house/retirement and present her with this prestigious honor. The board agreed that would be most appropriate.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING PRESENTATION AND DRAFT REPORT**

Dr. Hawthorne presented the draft strategic plan developed by the strategic planning committee. He presented a slide show that summarized the report. The plan focuses on recruitment of a data center to Progress Park, the creation of an access road to Progress Park directly from the interstates, possible development of a Wytheville Technology Park, and workforce development. Dr. Hawthorne proposed having the draft on the Joint IDA website for public comment and taking public comment during Citizen's Time at the December board meeting.

### **REPORT ON VA TECH "FARMSHORING" MEETING AND VEDA FALL MEETING**

Dr. Hawthorne indicated that some surrounding counties worked with Virginia Tech on a study of "farmshoring" which means sending jobs from high-cost urban areas to lower-cost rural areas. The study looked at Southwest Virginia's ability to capture farmshoring jobs from Northern Virginia. Dr. Hawthorne stated that a finding of the study was the real absence of Class A office space and appropriate workforce in Southwest Virginia. Mr. Elmore asked Dr. Hawthorne his opinion about a Workforce Investment Act proposal, and Dr. Hawthorne remarked that what was specifically proposed, would not be a direct benefit to the Joint IDA at this time. A more appropriate focus would be on attracting and developing electro-mechanical maintenance as this is a key shortage for the region and nation.

### **PROJECTS UPDATE**

Dr. Hawthorne provided an update on a project.

**OTHER**

Dr. Hawthorne informed the board that WVVA, Channel 6 of Bluefield, West Virginia is doing a week-long special on Wytheville to air November 12-16.

**ADJOURN**

There being no other business, Mr. Freeman adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

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Joseph W. Freeman, Chairman

Attest:

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Danielle M. Skeens, Secretary