

CASWELL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

March 13, 2023

1:00 P.M.

Call to Order	Alvin Foster
Welcome	Alvin Foster
Roll Call	Shirley Wilson
Approval of Minutes	Alvin Foster
Approval of Agenda	Alvin Foster
Old Business	
EDC Update:	
County Manager	Bryan Miller
PCC	Dr. Senegal
CCCOC	N/A
Town of Yanceyville	Alvin Foster
Ag. Update	Travis Hoesli
Town of Milton	Shirley Wilson
Tourism	Amanda Hodges
Caswell County Schools	Asst. Superintendent
New Business	
Other Information	Open to All
Adjourn	

EDC MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Alvin Foster at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Alvin Foster, Shirley Wilson, Kamara Graves, Tony Smith, Shirley Cadmus, Matthew Hoagland, Cathia Stewart, Ruby Graves, Emily Buchanan, Travis Hoesli, Rick McVey, Bryan Miller

Guest: Amanda Hodges, Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager

Zoom:

Members Absent: Dr. Senegal

Welcome: Alvin Foster

Roll Call: Shirley Wilson

Approval of January 09, 2023, Minutes: Minutes approved with no corrections. Tony Smith motioned for approval of the **January 09, 2023, Minutes** and seconded by Shirley Cadmus. All were in favor.

Approval of, February 13, 2023, Agenda approved with no corrections. Ruby Graves motioned for approval of the **February 13, 2023; Agenda** seconded by Emily Buchanan. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

EDC Update- Bryan Miller:

- ✚ **EDC and County Manager:** The county is in ongoing discussions with potential prospects for development at Pelham industrial Park. We had an offer, and the Board heard the offer and rejected the initial offer. The prospects come back with an additional offer, and we plan to discuss that with the board. (Shell Buildings) The County Commissioners are going through that process.
- ✚ Broadband is still moving forward, and Spectrum is still doing the work.
- ✚ **Rdof:** I am (Bryan Miller) getting a lot of address specific questions about Rdof some are good some not so good. One of the big problems I (Bryan Miller) see occurring is Our residents will see somebody working on the side of the road and they will stop and ask them are you coming to my house. They will say no. The home may not be on the days schedule or in that Node for that day. The workers only know their schedule for that day.
- ✚ **GREAT GRANTS** contracts are supposed to be signed soon. State has come out with the two party and three-party contracts. Caswell County needs to enter into a three-party contract. Because the county did appropriate up to \$250,000.00 for cover the addresses. We will enter into the three-party contract with the state, internet provider and the county. My (Bryan Miller) recommendation is we do not contribute any funding to the ISPN until the bill is complete and the service is turned on. The state is handling this as a reimbursement for the GREAT GRANT. We were awarded about 4 million dollars for the GREAT GRANT. The state will reimburse the ISPN as they go along. Our portion of money is so small I (Bryan Miller) am not concern about providing any money until the service is turned on for our residents. CABB will follow shortly thereafter. The last mile will follow that. (Discussed turning towers on and Backhaul service). We have five tower sites approved but not turned on yet. Explained Phase 1 Phase 2 coverage 75-80% of the county.
- ✚ **Candidates for an Economic Developer:** We do have some application. It's going to be very difficult hard to get an Economic Developer that's not brand new right out the gate due to low salaries here. Reaching out to Rockingham County Economic Developer to see if we can form a Regional Economic Development Group that could help us a little better. (Explained)

PCC: EMILY BUCHANAN:

- ✚ Enrollment is up about 4% which is a huge growth. PCC is one of two Community Colleges in North Carolina that's experiencing growth right now.
- ✚ Open Enrollment and offers laptops for those students that enrolls full-time.
- ✚ Working with Caesar's and their new General Manager: Opening a temporary Casino site while they are working on the permanent one.
- ✚ Meeting with Averett University- putting in a new Hospitality pathway in partnership with the Danville Community College and PCC is working with them right now.
- ✚ Proud of the Ag Program we had a student Lori Young that came through our Ag Program and is now working with Bryan Singleton now, hired by the Forestry Service. She is a success story.
- ✚ VET Assisting Program we started last year (2021) is still a huge success. Students are constantly getting hired by VET offices in the surrounding areas even before their courses are completed.
- ✚ We are working with the folks that are working with old Dillard School. Getting ready to sign our contract for an agreement for our students to go in and provide services for the residents once that starts. Making sure all SPECS for cosmetology and Barbering space are what we need for our students to work.
- ✚ First, time in PCC history our graduation ceremony will be held at the Civic Center.
- ✚ Offering tons of Camps this summer. Math Camps, Science Camps, Agriculture Camps, and several more for High School and Middle School students.
- ✚ CEAD Project, we had a lot of movement in that area. We have solidified a Design contract with the state. The architect is executing their side of the contract now. We have named our Construction Manager at Risk and we will be working with them this week to develop a contract so the folks in the community will be able to see a lot of work getting ready to happen.
- ✚ Lots of Funding opportunities lined up. Dr. Senegal stated we are fully funded for Phrase 1. Great prospects so we can be funded for Phrase 2 and 3.
- ✚ Meeting planned for this Spring. A trip up to the 4P Foods Headquarters. The 4P Foods is the fourth Profit Partner buying the farm products from the farmer in the county to distribute regionally. Partnership is ongoing.
- ✚ Received another Grant for CEAD from American Tobacco Trust Company for \$100,000.00 to expand our Ag Program.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Amanda Hodges

- ✚ Breakfasts lined up.
- ✚ First Chamber Directory

TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE: Alvin Foster

- ✚ Fourth of July Celebration will be on the Friday before the 4th of July (June 30th, 2023)
- ✚ Retro Band
- ✚ Fireworks
- ✚ Food Trucks
- ✚ Travis Hoesli, Amanda Hodges, Kamara Barnett, and I (Alvin Foster) I Met looking to move the Farmers Market in front of the Pavilion, this will be positive for downtown.
- ✚ Talked with the Tobacco Trust Fund Group about funding opportunities and applying for a Grant to cover the concrete part of the area after moving the Farmers Market in front of the Pavilion bathrooms and electronic signage. They supported this. Pursue applying for the Grant from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

AG UPDATE: TRAVIS HOESLI: N/A

- ✚ December was the deadline for the Ag Ventures Grant: had submitted three applicants for the Grant from the county. Grants to help farmers switch from tobacco to usage to a new Ag adventure of some sort. Waiting back to hear who received them.
- ✚ Food Council with moving the Farmers Market
- ✚ Leased out the grassy area for U-Haul Rental (Explained)

- ✚ Open April 20, 2023, and run through the Thursday Hoe Down week.
- ✚ Laughing a Local (Farms Boot Camp (Flyers Out 1st of April) Introduction into start small farm Enterprise. Initiative is six years in works. Curriculum put together, will help pilot in the Spring and give feedback. Will be available in all counties next Fall. (Seven Class) Everything but Livestock right now. Explained. We can adapt to our county's needs. Feeder program for the CEAD Project.

Alvin Foster asked **Bryan Miller**, who is the Counties three representatives? Discussed

Travis Hoesli: Food Council has re-launched the Luncheon and will stay at the **CO Square Building** for a couple of months then evaluate. It will be 2nd Wednesday of each month.

TOWN OF MILTON: Shirley Wilson: Cathia Stewart: Shirley Cadmus

- ✚ **Thomas Daye** will be taken over by the state soon.
- ✚ **Aunt Millie's** has re-opened, and the **Walking Trail** is walkable.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

Amanda Hodges:

- ✚ The **TDA** appointed in 2015 Monies has been sitting there for tourism. The monies should be used for Marketing in the community. Explained. This money is also for small Grants (500.00-\$2500.00).
- ✚ Who are on the committee. **Jillian, Hosanna, and Amanda**
- ✚ **Eight Pockets** where **Tourism** needs to be developed. **Caswell** is one of them.
- ✚ **Uplift Program Team: COVID Money, Partnered with Person County and Granville County**
- ✚ **Housed as a TDA in the Historic Museum Yanceyville we are using that address.**
- ✚ hello@visitcaswell.com
- ✚ **Outdoor Tourism (Explained)**
- ✚ Working with Parks and Recreation
- ✚ Visit with the folks at the Casino, Rockingham Tourism Manager, Danville, and Stokes County
- ✚ State level (Caswell, Person, and Granville)
- ✚ Amanda Hodges visited with Connie at VIR.
- ✚ Amanda Hodges stated she works for Hyco Lake Magazine
- ✚ Discussed land for Hotel and Marketing

ALVIN FOSTER: stated we need approval from all municipalities to add the following as a voting seat to EDC: **Discussed** (Ex-officio) PCC, Agriculture Extension; Caswell Health Collaborative, and the Chamber of Commerce. Motion was made by Tony Smith and seconded by Rick McVey.

Motioned to adjourn by Ruby Graves and seconded by Rick McVey. All were in favor. Adjourned: 2:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2023

Submitted by: Shirley T Wilson