

MINUTES
TOWN OF ST. PAUL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014
TOWN HALL – 6:00 p. m.

IDA

Robert Harrison – Chairman
Frank Molinary-Absent
Harry Kelly
Bill Wallace
Mike Jessee
J. D. Cassell
Jack Kiser

Debora Baca - Secretary
Linda Tiller - Attorney

Allen Gregory - CVTimes

Chairman Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Cassell to accept the agenda as presented. A second was offered by Mr. Kiser and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Kiser moved to approve the October minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jessee and carried unanimously.

There were no public presentations or comments.

Old Business:

Chairman Harrison reported that the Willis Building Project Committee met last week with DHCD to discuss the contract parameters for the grant funds. Creative Boutique representatives is expected to be back in town in December to further evaluate the Willis building before finalizing a proposal for the architectural work, construction work, and operation of the building. Chairman Harrison said Creative Boutiques will conduct a market study and he is optimistic about their proposal. Mr. Wallace said he spoke with Donnie Rife regarding the possibility of VCEDA money being used for the Willis building. He added that Mr. Rife seemed supportive of the town getting VCEDA money to renovate the building.

It was reported by Chairman Harrison that the town has applied for an IRF grant for the Lyric Building Project. The Lyric Committee is continuing their fundraising efforts and has been receiving private donations. All of these funds can be used as matching funds for grants.

The Spearhead Trails request for a \$5,000 allocation was tabled from October. Chairman Harrison asked Ms. Baca to share some of the revenue increases due to ATV tourism. Ms. Baca reported that there has been discussion that the ATV traffic has contributed to the increase in purchased meals tax. She also pointed out that, for the first time ever, the town has collected transient occupancy tax, or “lodgers tax”. From the town perspective, the transient occupancy tax ordinance says 3% shall be allocated back to tourism efforts. The SRRA request was a \$5,000 allocation for two budget years. The town council voted only to allocate the \$5,000 from the current budget year to cover trail security and maintenance. Mr. Kelly reported on the amounts donated by other towns and counties in the area. Mr. Kiser pointed out the revenue Spearhead Trails is receiving from permits and other funding. He also asked the attorney if it is legal for the IDA to donate to this

group. Ms. Tiller said, "Yes, it is". Following further discussion about the number of businesses and tourists being drawn to our area by the ATV trails, Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to approve the \$5,000 to Spearhead Trails. A motion was made by Mr. Cassell to donate \$5,000 to Spearhead Trails. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly and passed unanimously.

New Business:

Governor McAuliffe will be in town on December 3rd for a ribbon cutting at Appalachian Biofuels. Chairman Harrison said Appalachian Biofuels has asked for an easement allowing them to use a small triangle shaped wedge of property at the back of the building where the rails are located. He estimates it is less than 1/4 acre of IDA property. Chairman Harrison reviewed the map of the property needed. Mr. Kiser asked to make sure that if the company leaves, the property reverts back to the IDA. Chairman Harrison said it would still be IDA property and once they build the additional rail line in there, it will remain part of the property. Following discussion about the exact placement and how close this puts the track to the river and the trail, Chairman Harrison said he will bring this back once he knows exactly what they want. There was further discussion about how this operation will work and the amount of diesel fuel they will be producing every day. He asked the board members to be thinking about this.

Chairman Harrison reported on the legislative breakfast attended by him, Mr. Wallace, and Mayor Fletcher. There was approximately 240 people attending and they addressed about eight questions with very generic answers. Most of the discussion concentrated on the budget shortfalls and improvement of the economy. Because of sequestration, a lot of federal jobs have been lost in northern Virginia. Chairman Harrison said there was an emphasis on elevating our area for industries like the biofuels plant and on tourism. Mr. Wallace said there was mention of the eastern Virginia counties trying to harvest our coal severance tax. Our representatives said they will continue to support the Coalfield Expressway. Chairman Harrison said there were a lot of comments about the progress of St. Paul. It seems we get more out of the conversations with the delegates outside the meeting. He also said the town will be pursuing liquor by the drink, but any business would still have to go through the ABC licensing process.

Chairman Harrison asked everyone to let Debbie know if they are interested in attending the legislative session in January. It will probably be Wednesday through Friday in the middle of January. Meetings will be arranged with our representatives and several of the funding agencies. Details are now yet available, but Chairman Harrison will be contacting the Wise County IDA to make room reservations through their block.

Mr. Cassell asked if anyone has considered zip lines. Ms. Baca said she thinks Terri Anne Funk has thought about this as an added adventure. Chairman Harrison said establishing other outdoor recreational events on the back side of Sugar Hill have been discussed.

Mr. Kelly asked about the December meeting. Chairman Harrison said we will not meet unless something comes up that must be addressed. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Wallace, to have the next meeting in January, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no closed session.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Jessee, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

_____ Chairman

_____ Secretary