

**PAGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA) MINUTES
Regular Meeting • 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2023
Government Center • 103 S. Court St. • Luray, VA**

The Economic Development Authority of the County of Page, Virginia conducted its regular monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023 in the Supervisors' Room of the Page County Government Center in Luray.

EDA MEMBERS PRESENT

Missie Deibert, Chairperson (District 2)
Jackie Fox Wood (District 1)
Sara Levinson (District 3)
Dennis Fleming (At-Large)
Jonathan Comer (Town of Shenandoah)

STAFF PRESENT

Nina Fox, Director of Economic Development and Tourism
Rebecca Armstrong, Communications and Marketing Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Anderson, Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, Page and Warren Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Missie Deibert.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

There were no special introductions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The EDA by consensus approved the Feb. 27 meeting agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The EDA by consensus approved the regular meeting minutes of Jan. 23, 2023 and the special meeting minutes of Feb. 7, 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT

EDA treasurer Sara Levinson reported that draft financial statements for 2022 have been completed and that a final report will be presented at a later date. EDA members reviewed a quarterly invoice totaling \$84 from Vision Technologies to host EDA member emails as well as an invoice for attorney fees for the EDA's rezoning project from Reed & Reed totaling \$2,114.16. A motion made by Jon Comer and seconded by Dennis Fleming to approve the invoices as presented passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Farming/agriculture subcommittee: Proposal for Board of Supervisors** — Ag subcommittee chairman Dennis Fleming reported that community comments and discussions have remained positive following the Feb. 7 special meeting for the presentation of the meat processing facility feasibility study. He told fellow EDA members that by consensus the ag subcommittee would like to move forward with Phase II of the project, estimated to cost \$300,000. Fleming made a **motion** that the EDA requests a special meeting with the Page County Board of Supervisors, coordinated by administration, to discuss Phase II planning of a potential meat processing facility to be located in Page County, Virginia, and that the EDA requests that the Board of Supervisors allocates \$300,000 to fund the second phase of the project's planning. The motion was seconded by Jackie Fox Wood and passed unanimously.
2. **Selling EDA property / rezoning update** — EDA members noted a public hearing scheduled for Feb. 28, 2023 by the Page County Planning Commission to consider the EDA's application to rezone four parcels off of Goodrich Road in Stanley totaling 59.153 acres. If approved, the parcels would be rezoned from Industrial to Agricultural. Director of Economic Development and Tourism Nina Fox reported that she shared with the Page County Zoning Administrator a letter from the Shenandoah Valley Partnership that outlined why the parcels should not be zoned Industrial. Chairperson Deibert encouraged all EDA members to attend the public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Fox told EDA members that she and Town of Shenandoah representative Jonathan Comer met earlier that day with Virginia Housing to learn more about its programs and initiatives. EDA members discussed potentially forming a subcommittee to help a county-wide housing need. Chairperson Deibert asked that EDA members come to the March meeting with recommendations of community members who might serve on the subcommittee. Fox recommended that it consist of two EDA members and two to three community members.

PAGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Fox noted Page's participation in and sponsorship of the upcoming Farm2Fork affair, scheduled for March 14 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. A Feb. 23 community launch party at the Mimslyn Inn in celebration of the Page Valley tourism team's new website (pagevalley.org), she said, was well received by attendees and tourism and hospitality partners.

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Chris Anderson, who serves as the Page and Warren Coordinator for the Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, touted a meat processing facility in Page County as an exciting

direction and asked that the EDA considers natural resources while supporting local agriculture.

COMMENTS BY THE MEMBERS

Chairperson Deibert noted that the ag subcommittee will continue with future initiatives in addition to the meat processing facility.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at about 6:57 p.m.