



LEE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

March 13, 2020

Members Present: David Barton, Doug Gyure, Tom Hoolihan, Gail Markham, Robbie Roepstorff

Members Absent: Ed Bolter, Wayne Kirkwood

Staff Present: From Lee Co EDO: John Talmage, Nancy Collura, Warren Baucom, Dana Brunett; Jim Humphrey, IDA counsel; Sharon Brotherton, IDA bookkeeper

Guests Present: Dilman Thomas, Horizon Foundation fundraiser

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – David Barton called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and noted a quorum was present.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion to approve the November 11, 2019 IDA meeting minutes was made by Tom Hoolihan, seconded by Gail Markham, and unanimously approved.
- III. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Gail Markham reported that there is \$1.3M net available funds; not much has been going on and not many expenditures so we’re in a really good place. Robbie Roepstorff asked about the \$50,000 check that went to the Horizon Foundation and was reminded that that was the IDA’s agreed amount to support the fundraiser position. A motion to approve the report was made by Gail Markham, seconded by Robbie Roepstorff, and unanimously approved. David Barton asked for all to vote on paying the Knott-Ebelini-Hart invoice dated 2.24.2020 and that was unanimously approved.
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS** – Jim Humphrey recently went to Robbie Roepstorff’s office to finalize her reappointment to the board. Jim asked whether all the other members also needed to be sworn in and documented; he was told that everyone was sworn at the November meeting but the representatives from Jim Humphrey’s office who administered the oath did not gather the signatures on documentation that he needs for his files. (A notary from county staff was brought in to the meeting to execute these documents.)
- V. **NEW BUSINESS** – Quotes have been received from The Thompson Agency for the annual renewal of the IDA’s existing D&O insurance and general liability insurance policies. Robbie Roepstorff commented that professional liability insurance was first purchased a few years ago, but she wonders why IDA needs general liability insurance; she also questioned the ‘nonadmitted renewal’ and ‘building and premises’ items included in the packet. Doug Gyure commented that the general liability might have been needed when meetings were held at other local facilities. David Barton asked if the quotes are from the same agency that’s always been used (it is). Jim Humphrey recommended that IDA authorize renewal now and ask that EDO get more info and look for other quotes; Dilman Thomas volunteered to assist with quote gathering. A motion to approve renewal and gather information for subsequent coverage was made by Robbie Roepstorff, seconded by Gail Markham, and unanimously approved.

Dilman Thomas reported that the Foundation also wants to look at creating an Executive Director position and add an administrator position. This year’s goal is over \$500,000 and in order to continue to ramp up fundraising, a dedicated admin person to do the recordkeeping and other functions that are currently being doing by the EDO would help. Gail Markham reminded the group that they are currently providing \$75,000 in annual support to the Foundation for the fundraiser position. A motion to fund an admin position for up to \$50K including benefits, for two years, was made by Gail Markham, seconded Tom Hoolihan, and unanimously approved. Gail Markham commented that Sharon Brotherton could help set up the admin position through a payroll service so that benefits could be made available. Robbie Roepstorff asked what Dilman Thomas’s projected time frame to further increase Foundation fundraising with this additional

support; Gail Markham commented that she thinks that the Foundation would eventually fund this position on its own. Jim Humphrey recommended that this position be set up with a two-year commitment and the Foundation as the employer; he'll write an opinion for this that the Foundation still supports economic development for the county; he added that the Foundation should report to the IDA each year as a follow-up to their investment.

- VI. REPORT FROM IDA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HORIZON COUNCIL** – Robbie Roepstorff reported that there are lots of changes, for the good, happening to get Horizon Council members reengaged, regularly attending, and reporting back to the organizations that they represent. Committees this year include bylaws, business issues, commercial corridor revitalization, outreach/marketing, transportation/MPO, sports council; healthcare and workforce development are sunsetted. The Horizon Foundation board is reviewing the bylaws and wants to move forward with complete restructuring of the organization; there should be an entire separate board for the Foundation separate from the Council, and leadership should be different too, and include several investors. They want to reevaluate the investor levels and the return investors get. Gail Markham commented that the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and that's part of the reason that this movement toward keeping it a completely separate organization is important. John Talmage added that the Foundation should have a separate board, bylaws, meeting days, etc. in order to ensure that Sunshine Law requirements for the Horizon Council are met and maintained. Tom Hoolihan commented that the current structure of the Horizon Council is useful since many of the voting members are representatives of lobbying groups which need strong representation in order to advocate for their members.
- VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR COMMENTS** – John Talmage reported that EDO has developed an application for organizations that want to apply for IDA funds as a grant to further economic development have an avenue to use, and there's a new upcoming project that may use this. Gail Markham reported that the local Junior Achievement organization has taken on a new project, spearheaded by local businessman Scott Fischer, as part of a national prototype program to inspire entrepreneurship, to take to all eighth graders in Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties a three-day showing of professions that the students will visit. FGCU has committed to providing the facility and the school district has committed to providing transportation and food; the program is tentatively scheduled to take place in October; this may be a good kickoff program for the 13,000 students that are eligible to attend. John Talmage had the draft application handed out to everyone in attendance; Jim Humphrey said that he should prepare an opinion that indicates that any projects be for the benefit of Lee County. John Talmage also reported that a new person will be hired for the EDO staff to serve as permitting ombudsman to help walk a new small business start-up through the development process; he also advised everyone that there are now representatives from the SBCD, PTAC, and SCORE that use office space in the Economic Development Office.
- VIII. ADJOURN** - With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Next scheduled Industrial Development Authority meeting:

April 10, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Lee County Administration East Building

2201 2nd Street, Suite 500

Fort Myers, FL 33901

(239) 533-6800



Lee County Industrial Development Authority 2020 Meetings

Revised 5/14/2020

January 10, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. - CANCELLED

February 14, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. - CANCELLED

March 13, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

April 10, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. – SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MTG

April 29, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MTG

May 8, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – CANCELLED

May 19, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MTG

June 12, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

July 2020 – NO MEETING

August 14, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

*September 11, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

***ANNUAL MEETING**

October 9, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

November 6, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

December 2020 – NO MEETING

**Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held at the
Lee County Admin East Building, 2201 Second St., Suite 118
(239) 533-6800**