

***Hardee County Economic Development Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2009***

Attendees: John Barlow – Chairman, Joe Albritton – Vice Chairman, Marcus Shackelford, Keith Davis, Mike Manley, Jama Abbott, Lory Durrance, Rick Knight, Paul Samuels, Jim See, Lavon Cobb, Rick Justice

Absent: Nancy Craft, John O’Neal

Staff: Bill Lambert, Casey Dickson

Guest: Cheryl Sharp, Ken Evers, Donald Samuels, Miles Judah

Meeting was called to order by Chairman John Barlow at 9:04 am.

Minutes: A motion was made by Paul Samuels and was seconded by Jama Abbott to approve the November 10, 2009 minutes. Motion approved.

Agenda: A motion was made by Rick Justice and seconded by Jim See to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Director’s Report

Airport Report: Bill Lambert reported that the airport project is not moving forward at this time. A discussion was held by the board regarding the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) aviation report and Bill believed that the report was positive; however, there was no direct mention of an air cargo facility.

Highway 17: It was reported that FDOT announced there is construction money for Highway 17 at the Legislative Delegation meeting on December 1st. Project should be moving forward by summer of 2010. Bill stated that Highway 17 was still the Number 1 transportation priority with FHREDI but he remained apprehensive about its continued support because of the push of the inland port within the southern counties.

NHIL: Bill Lambert reported his frustration with the NHIL project. There has been a stall on the side of NHIL for multiple reasons. However, Bill had no reason to believe that the project would not continue to move forward. A conference call was held with Bill and the doctors and, as a result, the Doctors are coming to the IDA meeting to provide an update on the project. Bill encouraged the EDC members to stay and attend the IDA meeting

NayaDiesel: The EDC is in the process of answering a Request for Proposal regarding NayaDiesel as it relates to the proposed landfill. Bubba Barlow questioned the projects compatibility between the two projects.

Solar: Several solar projects are on the table within the EDC and the staff is working with each company for a possible fit. The companies range from assembly plants to distribution centers. Bill reported that the IDA has ordered an appraisal for the Forrestwood Building to look at the possibility of purchase for a “move in ready” site with these companies in mind.

Mosaic Agreement: Bill reported that permits are expected to be issued in early January. Bill has asked for feedback from the board in regards to the management of the monies. Joe Albritton suggested that the IDA invest a portion of the money with a venture capitalist firm in an effort to put our name and resources in the hands of a company who has experience with studies, site selection, start up companies, relocation, etc. Joe is to research the idea for a follow up at a future meeting.

Broadband: The project is continuing to move forward. However, no word has been given as to the award of the grant. Therefore, Bill reported that the IDA would be filing an application with the EDA for the project in an effort to guarantee funding with or without the grant.

Fossil Committee: The committee is moving forward and working with Mosaic. Members of the committee are looking at creating a business plan for the committee and project.

Landfill: The developer delayed the hearing until January 7, 2010.

USF Polytech: Bill believes that we are getting closer to reaching an agreement with the school.

Marketing Report

IBReportTV: Casey Dickson reported that she was working with the script writer to develop a script for Hardee County’s segment. Script should be done after the first of the year. After the script is received, a meeting will be called with the Marketing Committee.

Finance Report

Finance Report: A motion was made by Rick Knight and seconded by Rick Justice to accept the Financial Report. Motion approved.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Marcus Shackelford and seconded by Joe Albritton to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned.