

Bland County Economic Development Authority

Authority Meeting Minutes April 14, 2025 20 Fairground Street, EDA Conference Room, Bland, VA

Call to Order:

Mr. Havens, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

The following authority members attended the meeting:

Mr. James Starks
Mr. Timothy Havens
Mr. Wade Hall
Mr. John Babbitt

Members Absent:

Mrs. Linda Townley
Mr. John Martin
Vacant member position

Others present:

Mrs. Cameron Burton, County Administrator
Mr. Paul Cassell, County Attorney
Ms. Teresa Tolbert, EDA Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and Invocation

Mr. Starks led the pledge and offered an invocation.

AGENDA/MINUTES/TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVAL

Mr. Starks made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Starks made a motion to approve March 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Babbitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report. Approval tabled pending arrival of Treasurer Townley.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Starks made the following motion: "Pursuant to Section 2.2 – 3711 (A) (3) and (5) of the Code of Virginia, I move that the Bland County Economic Development Authority convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussion of the Authority's disposition/acquisition of property and the business of prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding, *more specifically*

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Project Bacon's lease and grant/loan performance agreement stipulations. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hall. Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION AND CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Starks made the motion that the EDA return to open session. Mr. Babbitt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Starks made the following motion: "Pursuant to Section 2.2 – 3712 of the Code of Virginia, I move that the Bland County Economic Development Authority team while in closed session discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements as previously stated in Virginia Law and that only such matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered." This motion was seconded by Mr. Hall. Member roll call: Mrs. Townley – absent; Mr. Starks– yes; Mr. Babbitt–yes; Mr. Martin – absent; Mr. Havens –yes, and Mr. Hall– yes. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Starks to approve performance agreement/grant and promissory note for Project Bacon and a lease of County Building 9 with Project Bacon further authorizing Mrs. Burton to finalize documents, along with Mr. Cassell. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget--

Mr. Babbitt made a motion to adopt the FY '26 EDA Budget in the amount of \$490,074.72. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Contact emails—

Members discussed the email addresses used by the EDA— eda@bland.org and edachair@bland.org and agreed that these were sufficient.

EDA brochures—

Mrs. Burton will have the Community Development project manager work on this project.

Business/Industry Appreciation—

Members agreed to schedule this event in late May or early June.

EDA office renovation—

It was the consensus of the Authority to authorize Mrs. Burton to acquire quotes and/or further ideas on the renovation of the existing office space.

Welcome Signs—

Members agreed to explore some other ideas related to this service provided to County Businesses; the Bastian sign will come down when VDOT begins the work on the intersection.

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AGENDA/MINUTES/TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVAL con't

Treasurer report. Mrs. Burton read the report. Mr. Starks made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Projects update. Mrs. Burton provided a project update.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Starks. Mr. Babbitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

May 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.