

Bland County Economic Development Authority

**Authority Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2026
612 Main Street,
Courthouse Conference Room 200
Bland, VA 24315**

Call to Order:

Mrs. Burton, County Administrator, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

The following authority members attended the meeting:

Mr. James Starks
Mr. John Martin
Mr. Andy Davis
Mr. Timothy Havens
Mr. John Babbitt
Mr. Wade Hall
Mrs. Linda Townley

Members Absent:

none

Others present:

Mr. Stephen Kelley, Board of Supervisor member
Mr. Randy Johnson, Board of Supervisor member
Mrs. Cameron Burton, County Administrator
Ms. Teresa Tolbert, EDA Secretary

PLEDGE & INVOCATION

Mr. Starks led the pledge to the U.S. Flag and offered an invocation.

AGENDA/MINUTES/TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVAL

Mr. Starks made a motion to approve the agenda and change the timing of Virginia Steel's presentation to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Virginia Steel—Mr. Ray introduced himself as a new co-owner of Virginia Steel and detailed a few of their immediate business plans and needs.

Mr. Martin arrives at meeting.

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

Mr. Babbitt made a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2025 and November 17, 2025 as presented. Mrs. Townley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Townley presented the Treasurer's report. Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Project update—Mrs. Burton provided an update.

Revitalization Committee update—Mrs. Burton provided a committee update.

REORGANIZATION of THE AUTHORITY

Mrs. Burton opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Starks nominated Mr. Havens, no other nominations were offered. Mr. Havens was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Havens opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Starks nominated Mr. Martin, no other nominations were offered. Mr. Martin was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Havens opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer. Mr. Starks nominated Mrs. Townley, no other nominations were offered. Mrs. Townley was elected Treasurer by acclamation.

Mr. Starks made a motion stating the proposed meeting date, time and place. The regular meetings will be conducted on the second Monday, each month, at 5:15 pm, at the EDA Office Conference Room, 20 Fairground Street, Bland, VA 24315. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Havens read the EDA Mission Statement. Mr. Hall made a motion to keep the presented Mission Statement as is. Mr. Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was the Consensus of the Authority to review bank rates when the CD matures in April 2026.

Mr. Davis, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Townley and Mr. Havens volunteered for the Budget Committee. The committee will meet after the next regular meeting. Mr. Starks made a motion to accept the volunteers for the committee. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Martin made the following motion: "Pursuant to Section 2.2 – 3711 (A) (3), (5) and (8) of the Code of Virginia, I move that the Bland County Economic Development Authority convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussion of real property acquisition/disposition, prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding, and discussion of a specific legal matter with legal counsel for legal advice, *more specifically Virginia Steel, Project Legacy, Project Heart and Project BLT*. This motion was seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion passed.

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It was the CONCENSUS of the Authority to hear public comments.

The Authority retired into closed session.

OPEN SESSION AND CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Martin made the motion that the EDA return to open session and read the following certification:

“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 Mrs. Townley. Roll call vote: Mr. Martin-yes; Mr. Davis-yes; Mr. Babbitt-yes; Mr. Hall-yes; Mr. Starks-yes; Mrs. Townley-yes, and Mr. Havens-yes.

Mr. Starks made a motion to authorize Mrs. Burton to negotiate an agreement with Virginia Steel for a lot in the Industrial Park. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Townley made a motion to authorize Mrs. Burton to draft a letter to Project BLT regarding the lease and loan for the property at 696 Main Street, Bland, VA 24315.

ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

March 9, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at Courthouse Conference Room (or 20 Fairground Street, pending availability of space).