

FRANKLIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Friday, January 14, 2011

Minutes

The Franklin County Economic Development Commission was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Don Lancaster on January 14, 2011 at the Franklin County Economic Development office in Youngsville.

In attendance were: Larry Woodlief, Don Lancaster (County Commissioner), Brenda Robbins (Administrator-Town of Youngsville), Randy Parker (VGCC), Leelan Woodlief, Richie Duncan (Existing Industry Coordinator), Lori Duke (Administrative Support Specialist), Tanya Evans (Progress Energy), Mike Brown (Employment Sec. Commission), Mack Cooper (Concerned Citizen), Simon Brough (Concerned Citizen), Jennifer Westfall (Franklin Regional Medical Ctr.), Andy Bailey (Franklin Regional Medical Ctr.) and Gary Cunard (The Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting were: Mark McArn, Ronnie Goswick (EDC Director), Bobbie Jo May, Scott Hammerbacher (Director-Planning & Inspections), Angela Harris (County Manager), Bryce Mendenhall (Public Utilities Director), Mike Leonard, Michael Schriver (Chairman-Chamber of Commerce), Joyce Cooke, Elic Senter (Mayor of Franklinton), Matthew Winslow, Marsha Strawbridge (Mayor of Bunn), Karl Pernell (Mayor of Louisburg), Steve Merritt (Airport Mgr.-Triangle North Executive Airport), Shane Mitchell (County Commissioner), Glen Bradley (NC House Representative), Doug Berger (NC Senator), and Margaret Nelms (Mayor of Centerville).

The second item on the agenda was the review and approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting. Brenda Robbins made a motion to approve the minutes, with Commissioner Leelan Woodlief seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was an update on the "401 Citizens Action Committee" given by Gary Cunard. Mr. Cunard said they have been trying to arrange a meeting with the design engineers at the NCDOT to see where they are in the process of doing the planning and design work on sections C and D. We want to make sure that the federal grant money we received is used for those sections. Mr. Cunard said that politically we are nowhere. We've dealt a great deal with Senator Berger and he's been helpful and we have had verbal support from Senator Hagan. We have yet to receive a return call from Representative Bradley and Congresswoman Ellmers.

The fourth item on the agenda was the Employment Security Commission update by Mike Brown. Mr. Brown said Congress approved a reauthorization of federal unemployment insurance extension benefits for another 13 months. Although this does not add anything further to the current maximum of up to 99 weeks of benefits available, it does add more time for eligible unemployed workers to be able to collect those maximum benefits while trying to secure a new job. Mr. Brown said two (2) years ago, the federal stimulus act provided an additional \$25 per week for the unemployed, but he doesn't see a continuation of that. We are seeing a lot of people get 2nd and 3rd interviews for jobs, and a lot of people are now finding employment, also. Mr. Brown said the ESC has software called "NC JobConnector", which allows someone to put in their skill sets and it matches them with employers who need those identical skill sets.

The fifth item on the agenda was discussion of possible incentive for company by Richie Duncan. Ms. Duncan said we have a company, which is moving from Wake to Franklin County, and we have a company in Franklin County that is going to expand. We will be asking for an incentive for both businesses, therefore, we will be bringing this before the County Commissioners next Tuesday night at their board meeting for their approval. Carolina Resource Corporation, which is located at 850 Park Ave. in Youngsville, currently has 10 employees and does metal fabrication. They are considering an expansion, which will occupy one-half of the Tom Togs building at 321 Nassau St. in Youngsville. The expansion will create approximately five (5) new jobs in 2011, with an additional five (5) to 15 new jobs over the next three (3) years. The tax valuation of the new investment is \$593,979. We are going to request a 3% incentive for the expansion, which is \$17,819. This will be paid after they pay their taxes and paid based on actual tax valuation. Triangle Metalworks, which is currently located at 1423 Wait Ave. in Wake Forest, will move into the other half of the Tom Togs building. Their relocation will bring to Franklin County five (5) full-time employees and four (4) part time employees, with the possible addition of another two (2) to three (3) full-time employees during the next three (3) years. The tax valuation of the new investment is \$314,461. We will be requesting a 3% incentive, which is \$9,434. Ms. Duncan noted that both businesses were very happy with the assistance they received from Perry Faulkner and Eddy Strickland of the Planning and Inspections Dept., as well as Brenda Robbins and her staff at the Town of Youngsville. Ms. Duncan said we would like approval from the EDC board to carry this forward to the County Commissioners. Commissioner Larry Woodlief made the motion that the EDC request approval from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for a 3% incentive for Carolina Resource Corporation and Triangle Metalworks, with Brenda Robbins seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The sixth item on the agenda was the economic development update by Richie Duncan. Ms. Duncan said we have put out bids for the archaeological survey for the road extension to Triangle North Franklin, and we will be making a selection sometime in March. We have two (2) active projects, which have shown interest in the shell building, and there have been other requests for information on sites and/or buildings in the county, as well. Don Lancaster said that North Carolina will receive \$46.1 million in loan loss funds through the "State Small Business Credit Initiative". The "North Carolina Capital Access Program" works with banks and other eligible financial institutions to create capital opportunities for entrepreneurs who might not otherwise qualify for financing. The NC Rural Economic Development Center will administer this program. Ms. Duncan said she and Don Lancaster will be making a suggestion to the Rural Center, for a meeting sometime in March, for a group of bankers to meet with Tony Johnson, who is the Senior Director of Business Development at the NC Rural Economic Development Center, to discuss this program. Ms. Duncan also informed the Board that Ronnie Goswick was on a biotech recruitment trip in Amsterdam, Lyon and Paris. This trip is funded by the RTRP.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.