

Town of Richlands
Industrial Development Authority
March 6th, 2023

The Richlands IDA held a regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P.M. with the following present:

Joseph Vance	Dr. Brandon Buskill
Craig Earls	Phillip Horton

Members Absent:

Town Representatives: Laura Mollo

Guests: Billie Roberts (VCC)

Phillip Horton called the meeting to order.

Craig Earls made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Brandon Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

The minutes from the February 7th, 2023 meetings were presented. Dr. Brandon Buskill made a motion to approve the minutes. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

New Business:

Billie Roberts – Virginia Community Capital (VCC):

Phillip Horton: Thank you for joining us to discuss VCC. Pop-up is great program. Our prior chairman moved away, then I took over. It was a good program, but we have had some issues. The group discussed the two prior rounds of Pop-up Richlands.

Billie Roberts: I was involved with the classes for Pop-up Richlands regarding the credit workshop and financial resources portions. I also came for assistance for the winners. VCC can provide further business and technical assistance for any small business. The VCC pretty much runs the Pop-up program for Washington County. Sandy (VCC) handles everything, but the funding. I can reach out and help run the program if that is something you guys are interested in.

Joseph Vance: So, what does VCC do for these programs?

Billie Roberts: Gave a presentation on the background information regarding VCC and how they help local governments with economic development projects. She provided the following contact information for small business loans: Cynthia Snider/VP small business loan officer: 540-260-3507, email: csnider@vccva.org

The group discussed the VCC and loan products that are available for businesses, and the consulting services available. Billie Roberts can setup once per month at town all for small business support if needed.

Pop-up Richlands Update:

Sharron Horton (Magic Moments Photography) decided to close her business due to her health issues.

Jaci Barrett (Bleachy Mama) - we approved her funds, and she gathered the documentation for Heather, but she has not received her payment yet. That is being worked through the process at town hall.

No further draw down requests were received.

IDA Appointments:

The IDA appointment solicitation is ready for distribution on Facebook. We are just waiting on the town to approve and get it out.

Other Discussion:

The group discussed the Cumberland Plateau grant for revitalization and the \$50K planning grant for this revitalization effort. They will be evaluating the town, and will focus on a certain block. In the past, it has to be on the main loop of the town within 3 different quadrants. The meetings start next week to discuss the quadrants and ideas. This will include public meetings to get feedback on areas of interest. This is a \$1,000,000 grant that does not require matching, so it is an excellent opportunity for the town.

Phillip Horton: Where are we with the solar ordinance?

Laura Mollo: The council had some concerns with the interconnection, and they want an electrical engineer to look at the details before proceeding. The zoning piece of the ordinance is going back to the planning commission for review.

Phillip Horton: How are we on the battery storage project?

Laura Mollo: The town attorney handled it back in August for legal review. We have not heard anything on it. We can check on that.

The group discussed, and this battery project will be important to help with peak shaving electrical demand, which can provide a lot of savings to the town.

Phillip Horton: It is important that we are energy independent, and that we are able to generate our own power. We need a unanimous resolution from council to support these projects so we can get further assistance.

Joseph Vance: It will be helpful to have language that is actionable, so that we can get these grants and access to other programs.

The group discussed and we need to explore these alternate sources of funding for projects. We can meet with Senator Hackworth's team to see if they have the recommended language.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Phillip Horton seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Next Meeting April 3rd, at 6:00 P.M