

IDA Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2022
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The Town of Orange Industrial Development Authority (IDA) held a meeting at 5:15 p.m. in the Town of Orange Community Meeting Room. Members present were, Chairman Robert Higginbotham, Vice-Chairman Mr. Harry C. Mason, Jr. (arrived at 5:30), Mrs. Dana C. Amos, Mr. Kevin Reynolds, Sr., Mr. David Rutt, and Mr. Steve Sylvia. Staff members present were: Town Manager/Treasurer Greg Woods, Deputy Town Clerk/Secretary Kimberly Strawser, CMC/CZA & Town Attorney Catherine Lea. Dr. Dena Jennings was absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Higginbotham called the meeting to order. The Secretary called roll and noted that there was a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Treasurer requested to add an update on Fiber and update on the IDA Funds to the agenda. Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Rutt, to adopt the agenda, as amended. On vote, Chairman Higginbotham – aye, Vice-Chairman Mason – absent, Mrs. Amos – aye, Dr. Jennings – absent, Mr. Reynolds – aye, Mr. Rutt – aye, and Mr. Sylvia – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF IDA MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2022

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Rutt, to adopt the meeting minutes of May 18, 2022, as presented. On vote, Chairman Higginbotham – aye, Vice-Chairman Mason – absent, Mrs. Amos – aye, Dr. Jennings – absent, Mr. Reynolds – aye, Mr. Rutt – aye, and Mr. Sylvia – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

FIBER UPDATE

The Treasurer reported that the fiber for the Town was awarded to Firefly. The Town Attorney gave an update. A brief discussion was held.

UPDATE ON FY2023 TOWN FUNDING

The Treasurer reported that Town Council approved the funding for FY2023, IDA funding is \$75,000 and would be available July 1st.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USE OF IDA FUNDS

Chairman Higginbotham asked the Treasurer if he had spoken to TOOT regarding using the buses for the expanded routes. The Treasurer reported that VRT was open to the idea and would like to discuss further. The Treasurer stated that an agreement would need be created. The Treasurer reported that TOOT was already doing this in Loudon County. A brief discussion was held.

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Chairman Higginbotham stated he spoke to several Bed & Breakfast and restaurants and quite a few of them were interested in the expanded TOOT route.

Mr. Rutt stated that recreation was needed in the town as well as a dry cleaner. Mr. Rutt reported that he had been in discussions with someone in regard to opening up a Country Store, similar to Yoders. Mr. Rutt stated offering some funds could help.

A brief discussion was held on incentives that could be offered i.e., Hub Zone, Opportunity Zone and Façade/Matching Grants.

Mr. Sylvia stated the Town missed the boat on tourism. Mr. Sylvia stated further that the Town had a lot of history to offer and the possibility to collaborate with surrounding localities to promote the Town.

Mr. Reynolds stated there needed to be an internet presence. Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Sylvia stated they would look into who does their websites and report back.

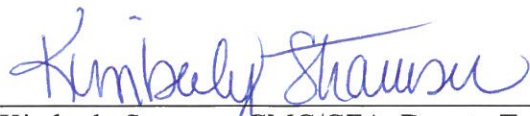
Mrs. Amos stated there needed to be an IDA website with the information of the IDA and what it offers.

A brief discussion was held regarding the criteria/guidelines needed to be created for low interest loans, grant, local and state incentives.

NEXT MEETING

The IDA next meeting will be held on July 20th at 5:15 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.



Kimberly Strawser, CMC/CZA, Deputy Town Clerk
IDA Secretary