

Iberia Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday – April 24, 2014

Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority
met on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. at
101 Burke Street, in New Iberia, LA 70560

Chad Courtois called the meeting to order and called for the roll.

Members Present: John Bellefontaine, Liz Bodin, Chad Courtois, Jim Wiggins

Members Absent: Cecil Hymel

Others Present: Michael Tarantino, Jeff Simon, Evelyn Ducote

Mr. Courtois asked for a review of the minutes and financials. On a motion by Liz Bodin, seconded by John Bellefontaine, the minutes of the regular March 2014 meeting were unanimously approved. Mrs. Ducote noted that the final ARDD \$12,000 payment has been received and will be spent by the end of the fiscal year. She also reminded the commissioners that the state's fiscal year ends on June 30th, and that all state dollars received must be spent before that date. She also noted that there needs to be a resolution passed at the next regular meeting that re-authorizes the acceptance of the state allocation for the next state fiscal year. On a motion by Jim Wiggins, seconded by Liz Bodin, the financials for March 2014 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Courtois invited Mr. Tarantino to proceed with his business park and funding update.

Mr. Tarantino noted that he's received three calls in the last month from people interested in Progress Point and there seems to be a lot of interest in Iberia Parish lately, especially along the Highway 90 corridor. Ed Bee of CSRS has asked that we participate in a survey. Andrea has emailed that survey to you and we ask that you please take the time to complete it. There are big discussions surrounding the agriculture vs. commercial property and zoning right now, as it pertains to the 18 miles of Highway 90 frontage that passes through the parish.

With regards to the Airport Access Road, and its progress, they have decided to remove one of the roundabouts. We need to move forward on the park design with Marc Berard, and include the pipeline moving. There may be some slight changes in the road design as it pertains to right-of-ways. Parish is finishing up with the buy-sale agreements now. There's a lot of competition between the utility companies. Rep. Barras is working on allocation for purchase of final piece of property. He sounds confident.

Moving onto the economic development update, Mr. Tarantino noted that the unemployment rate in the parish is now down to 3.9%. Our available workforce is staying steady, so we're not losing people, but will need to start pulling workforce from surrounding areas. There's also a lot of buzz going around with residential developers.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Jim Wiggins, seconded by John Bellefontaine, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2013 at 7:30 AM.