

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2018
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The meeting was held in the Judge's Library, on the second floor of the Courthouse in Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ruben Rivera

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

A roll call was done by Ms. Gale Smith, with the following members present:

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Pat Rost, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Ms. Gale Smith, Mr. Jason Picard, and Mr. Dane Hebert

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Paul Bourgeois, Mr. Kirk Frith, Ms. Sarah Trahan, Mr. Patrick Duhon, and Mr. Nash Patel

The following guests were present:

Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Jason Picard, and unanimously carried by the board.

Mr. Dane Hebert entered the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the invoices and expenses, totaling \$1,239.46. Upon motion by Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

The board was presented with an invoice for the Louisiana Workers Compensation Insurance Policy Renewal in the amount of \$1,010.00. The board decided to delay voting on this until the next meeting, as the office is waiting on two other policy renewal invoices to be received.

The board was also presented with the Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire for approval. This questionnaire is a requirement for the yearly financial review. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to approve the questionnaire and have it signed by the executive committee. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

The board also discussed the extended absence of board member, Mr. Nash Patel. Ms. Cormier was asked to contact his representing authority, the City of Abbeville, about his absence and to request a letter from the Mayor about a possible replacement.

OLD BUSINESS

The board was presented with the final figures regarding funds received in 2017. This led to a general discussion about possible funding options. Mr. Ben Rivera noted that by law we would be allowed to levy six-tenths of one mil. of property taxes, if a parish wide vote is passed. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux discussed other possible avenues that he is currently looking into. He also mentioned the need to look into private funding options.

Ms. Shari Cormier informed the board that Jonathon Perry has offered the use of his meeting room for another Stakeholder Appreciation Dinner, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the afternoon. The board thought that a Luncheon would not provide the attendance they were hoping for. Mr. Guilbeaux would like to look into other options in the Kaplan area.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cormier asked if the board had any feedback regarding the 2018 Action Plan that Ms. Falgout presented in December. Because of time constraints, there were no comments. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande requested a copy to review.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that Ms. Falgout's LIDEA Membership is up for renewal. She presented pricing that included membership along with the annual conference fee for \$425.00. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to allow the \$425.00 payment for both the membership and conference fee. Mr. Aidan Broussard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Cormier presented the board with the order forms for the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce Installation Banquet, at a cost of \$40.00 per ticket. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux stated that the law does not allow for the purchase of the ticket with VEDA funds. Mr. Ben Rivera offered to purchase the ticket for Ms. Falgout.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Ruben Rivera reminded the board that Ms. Falgout had sent a letter to Andrew Granger with the LSU Ag Center, requesting information about the possibilities of branding beef in Vermilion Parish, but he was not aware if she received a reply. Mr. Rivera stated that he had spoken to Mr. Granger and he said he would add the information to their newsletter. He also stated that he would contact Mr. Granger again to see if there was any interest. He also asked Mr. Dane Hebert if he would speak about the project to the Cattleman's Association and that he and Ms. Falgout could attend that meeting. Mr. Hebert agreed and asked for more information regarding the subject.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a written report detailing the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in the month of December.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge's Library/Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Dane Hebert, duly seconded by Ms. Pat Rost and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Gale Smith
Secretary