

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2017
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Pat Rost called the meeting to order at 5:06 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 Ms. Pat Rost.

Ms. Pat Rost requested a moment of silence.

A roll call was done by Ms. Shari Cormier, with the following members present:

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Pat Rost, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Nash Patel, Mr. Kirk Frith, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Jason Picard, and Mr. Paul Bourgeois

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Gale Smith, Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Ms. Sarah Trahan, Mr. Patrick Duhon, and Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande

The following guests were present:

Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 6, 2017 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Paul Bourgeois, duly seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the invoices and expenses, totaling \$797.40. Upon motion by Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Mr. Kirk Frith and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Shari Cormier presented the board with Ms. Falgout's notes regarding the funding options that were discussed at previous meetings. Ms. Cormier informed the board that the Vermilion Parish Police Jury's Building Committee voted against pursuing the Rural Business Development Grant at their March 29, 2017 meeting. This decision gives VEDD the opportunity to file for the grant. Ms. Cormier stated that Ms. Falgout would like the board's approval to apply for the grant in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for existing business and business development programs. She would also like the discretion, with the approval of the board President, to adjust this amount after discussing how negatively asking for the higher amount would affect VEDD's chances of receiving the grant. Mr. Kirk Frith motioned the board to precede forward with the grant application with a maximum request of \$250,000. Mr. Paul Bourgeois seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that the first of the radio ads has been developed and a copy was sent to the board members via e-mail. Mr. Ben Riveria played the audio for the board. Ms. Cormier also stated that Townsquare media was now working on a radio spot for our job fair to be aired in April and the spots will be offered to business at a reduced cost for the following months.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cormier informed the board that Ms. Falgout had met with Bradley Cruice, the owner-rep with the Vermilion WellAhead program. She informed the board of plans to host an event that would introduce the program to businesses in Vermilion Parish. She stated that Ms. Falgout feels that it would be best for the VEDD office to pursue the WellAhead “Well Spot” designation, in anticipation of this event. Mr. Kirk Frith motioned the board to approve pursuing the “Well Spot” designation as long as the Director insures that there is no future cost associated with being a “Well Spot” location. Mr. Paul Bourgeois seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Campaigns Class has been using VEDD as the model for the class project. She informed the board that the classes will present their research and proposed campaigns on May 1, 2017. She stated that Ms. Falgout wanted to invite the board members to attend.

Ms. Cormier informed the board of the upcoming Acadiana Day event, which connects Acadiana businesses with the legislative delegation. She noted Ms. Falgout’s request for board approval to attend at a cost of \$25.00. Mr. Kirk Frith motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout to attend and to pay the \$25.00 fee. Mr. Ben Rivera seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Pat Rost reported to the board that e-mails had been sent to the respective committee members asking for input to pursue the committee and to gather enough data to have a meeting. She stated that the responses she has receive were positive and many thanked her for allowing them to participate in the committee.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

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

Mr. Paul Bourgeois recommended that Ms. Falgout increase her interaction with the businesses in our community. He suggested she increase her face-to-face visitations, as well as reach out to businesses by telephone. The board also suggested that she try to make daily stops at different businesses throughout the parish to introduce herself and discuss our services.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2017 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge’s Library/Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Jason Picard, duly seconded by Mr. Paul Bourgeois and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Gale Smith
Secretary