



Economic Development Authority of Surry County, Virginia

MINUTES OF MEETING October 23, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Location: Surry Government Center General District Courtroom
45 School Street, Surry, Virginia 23883
Physical Address of Authority Office: 203 Church Street, Surry, Virginia 23883

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Myron Wooden called this Surry County Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Wooden held a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Wooden led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The meeting opened with the following members present:

Mr. Myron Wooden	Present
Mrs. Joyce Henderson	Present
Mr. Trenton Howell	Present
Mr. Howell Godfrey	Present
Mr. Ernest Blount	Present
Mr. John Price	Present
Mrs. Janet Monahan	Present

Also Present:

Ms. Renee Chapline, Director of Economic Development
Mrs. Doreatha Pierce, Secretary of Economic Development Authority
Ms. Lola Perkins, County Attorney

Guests who were in attendance are as follows:

Mr. Robert Elliott, Board of Supervisors, Claremont District
Mr. Walter Hardy, Board of Supervisors, Bacon's Castle District

AGENDA REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE

The EDA reviewed the meeting agenda. There was no discussion on the agenda.
A motion was made by Ms. Monahan and seconded by Mr. Godfrey to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. EDA Minutes May 29, 2025
2. EDA Work Session June 16, 2025

The EDA reviewed the minutes from the May 29, 2025, and June 16, 2025, meetings. There was no discussion on the minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Ms. Monahan to adopt the May 29, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Monahan and seconded by Mr. Price to adopt the June 16, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Account Status

Ms. Henderson presented the Treasurer's Report. She reported that the account status was at \$142,663.81 as of September 30, 2025. She noted that this report covered four months of information, which had been emailed to all EDA members prior to the meeting and was included in the meeting packet materials.

A motion was made by Mr. Godfrey and seconded by Mr. Howell to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Update from Claremont re: Loan



Lola Perkins, County Attorney, provided a brief update. She explained that the Town Clerk of Claremont had provided an updated invoice to the property owner in question, and now they were waiting to hear from Claremont regarding what the next step would be. She summarized that it appeared they were moving in the right direction.

2. Small Business Grant Program 2025-2026

Renee Chapline, Economic Development Consultant, provided a brief update. She said that for background, the EDA discussed their Small Business Grant Program at their June work session and the County had recently transferred over \$50,000 for the purpose of the grant program; however, they had not specified how those funds would be executed. She said that the EDA could hold another work session to discuss this more in-depth or could decide on grant awards tonight, if they so choose. She noted that the County had done a thorough review and developed top-tier priorities for the community going forward.

Chairman Wooden asked if the EDA members wished to hold another work session to further determine the direction of the Small Business Grant Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Price to schedule an EDA work session on November 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of a New Secretary

Renee Chapline, Economic Development Consultant, announced that Doreatha Pierce had agreed to serve as the Secretary to the Economic Development Authority. She requested the EDA to hold an official election to formally elect Ms. Pierce as Secretary.

A motion was made by Mr. Blount and seconded by Ms. Monahan to elect Ms. Doreatha Pierce as Secretary to the Economic Development Authority. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Wooden welcomed Ms. Pierce and thanked her for her service.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Chairman Wooden read the rules for public comment.

Walter Hardy, Bacon's Castle District, thanked the EDA members for their service to the County. He said that the Board of Supervisors was fully supportive of them and he encouraged them to stay focused on how their planning and investments would shape the County 50 years into the

future. He said that having foresight was crucial in maintaining the County's financial and social well-being, and he looked forward to working together to achieve it.

Robert Elliott, Jr., Claremont District, said that he wanted to echo Mr. Hardy's comments. He also wanted to recognize Ms. Henderson for her dedication and loyalty to serving Surry County on the EDA after her recent illness. He gave his sincere thanks to Ms. Henderson.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Renee Chapline, Economic Development Consultant, provided the Office of Economic Development Report. She explained that they were actively seeking to diversify their economic development strategy and continued to analyze available data to account for known challenges in their planning. She provided detailed information regarding constraints and opportunities to support future development. She summarized that the vision was to promote housing and economic development, including developing a comprehensive infrastructure plan for the County. She requested the EDA to send two members to participate in the Comprehensive Plan meetings, as their input was crucial to the process. She emphasized that they must all work together with intention so that the County could achieve a prosperous economic future.

Ms. Henderson and Mr. Godfrey volunteered to participate in the Comprehensive Plan meetings.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Godfrey stated that he looked forward to attending the Planning Commission meetings. He agreed with Ms. Chapline that the County's boards and commissions must support each other and work collaboratively in order to achieve success. He thanked his fellow EDA members for their continued commitment to move the County forward.

Mr. Price thanked his fellow EDA Board members and staff for all their hard work. He also welcomed Ms. Pierce to her new position as Secretary to the EDA. He agreed with Ms. Chapline that there were a lot of things the County must look down the line for as they planned for the future. He said that Surry was a very special place that they must preserve while also allowing for growth.

Ms. Monahan agreed with the previous comments made by her fellow Board members. She thanked the Board, staff, and Mr. Hardy and Mr. Elliott for their comments tonight. She added that the work session the EDA previously had was very positive, she felt they made excellent progress, and she was eager for them all to think together and work cooperatively at their next one.

Mr. Blount thanked everyone here for their support for Surry County. He said that this was a very special place to live and it had been a longstanding goal of his to move the County forward so that future generations could enjoy it. He noted that it was sometimes difficult to explain, so they should be mindful of that fact and try to echo the positive things going on in Surry.

Ms. Henderson thanked the Board members, staff, and everyone else in attendance at tonight's meeting. She also wanted to give her gratitude to everyone for being so generous and helpful whenever they could. She said that she was very excited because it was evident now that they were poised for greatness; however, it would also be a challenge. She acknowledged that they had a tough situation in terms of opportunities versus infrastructure constraints, and they must continue to work together to find the appropriate balance. She emphasized that she knew it was possible with what they had in hand right now.

Mr. Howell thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting and thanked staff for organizing it. He noted that he was one of those folks who had moved away and was lucky enough to come back and start his family here in Surry County, and he could attest that there was no better place to be. He was happy and thankful to be part of growing Surry and moving it in the right direction. He looked forward to their next work session so they could put some ideas on the table and work together on how to make them reality.

Mr. Wooden thanked all the Directors for their time and efforts in taking care of the business of the County. He thanked the Supervisors in attendance tonight and their support of the EDA was greatly appreciated. He thanked all the staff who supported the EDA's work and thanked Ms. Pierce for her willingness to serve as Secretary. He said that similar to Mr. Howell, he had been away from Surry County for about 17 years, and when the opportunity arose for him to come back home, he took it without hesitation. He knew that many people felt the same way; they may have left Surry for a reason but were looking to return home when it became possible. He felt that there was a lot going on in the County and they had to be willing to work to make opportunities come to fruition. He agreed with Ms. Henderson that they had challenges, but they were not unique to Surry and they could learn from their neighbors as to what worked in terms of achieving smart development in a rural County such as theirs. He said that he wanted to keep the mindset of working and communicating together at the forefront as they looked to identify projects that will support the County's residents.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Godfrey to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom. The motion carried unanimously.