



Economic Development Authority
45 School Street, Surry, Virginia 23883
www.surrycountyva.gov



County of Surry

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 22, 2026, 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 work session meeting to order at 6:00 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
Ms. Joyce Henderson	Present
Mr. Trenton Howell	Present
Mr. Howell Godfrey	Present
Ms. Janet Monahan	Present
Mr. Ernest Bount	Absent
Mr. John Price	Absent



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Also Present:

Ms. Doreatha Pierce, Economic Development Authority, Secretary

Ms. Renee Chapline, Director of Economic Development

Ms. Lola Perkins, County Attorney

Special guests, who were in attendance, are as follows:

Walter Hardy, Surry County Board of Supervisors

AGENDA REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE

The EDA reviewed the agenda for the meeting. There was no discussion on the agenda.

Lola Perkins, County Attorney, brought forward two proposed amendments to the agenda: first, to remove Item 1. Rural Development Loan/Grant from Unfinished Business, because the presenter could not attend tonight's meeting; and second, to add the Small Business Investment Grant Update to Unfinished Business.

A motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mr. Godfrey to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Perkins introduced the election of officers.

The floor was open for nominations for the position of Chair.

Mrs. Monahan nominated Myron Wooden. There were no further nominations, and the nomination was closed.

Mr. Wooden accepted the nomination.

On roll call vote, the nomination of Mr. Wooden for the position of Chair of the Economic Development Authority carried unanimously.

Next, the floor was open for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.



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Mrs. Henderson nominated Trenton Howell. There were no further nominations, and the nomination was closed.

Mr. Howell accepted the nomination.

On roll call vote, the nomination of Mr. Howell for the position of Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Authority carried unanimously.

Next, the floor was open for nominations for the position of Treasurer.

Mr. Howell nominated Joyce Henderson. There were no further nominations, and the nomination was closed.

Mrs. Henderson accepted the nomination.

On roll call vote, the nomination of Mrs. Henderson for the position of Treasurer of the Economic Development Authority carried unanimously.

Next, the floor was open for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Mr. Howell nominated Doreatha Pierce. There were no further nominations, and the nomination was closed.

Mrs. Pierce accepted the nomination.

On roll call vote, the nomination of Mrs. Pierce for the position of Secretary of the Economic Development Authority carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF 2026 MEETING CALENDAR

Renee Chapline, Director of Economic Development, stated that the calendar was not included in the meeting package, but it would be sent to the EDA. They had set forth each meeting to take place at 6:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each quarter, in the General District Courtroom

A motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mr. Howell to adopt the 2026 Meeting Calendar. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.



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ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The EDA reviewed the minutes of the October 23, 2025 meeting. There was no discussion on the meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Godfrey to adopt the October 23, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mrs. Henderson. She reported that their finances were in good shape while they were looking toward increasing their coffers this year for new and enhanced economic development initiatives. Their bank balance as of December 31, 2025 was \$141,754.85. There was one outstanding check of \$1,500 the EDA had sent as well as a \$6,000 reimbursement to the EDA they were anticipating to receive soon.

Mrs. Henderson noted that about half of the EDA's funding was allocated for the Small Business Grant Program, so there was funding available but a lack of applicants for the program. She said they may need to be more proactive in their approach and encourage more businesses to apply.

Mr. Howell motioned, seconded by Mrs. Monahan, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Small Business Grant Program Update

Renee Chapline, Economic Development Director, provided an update. She said that the draft had been furnished to the EDA and included some of the changes recommended by staff and the committee.. She asked for the EDA's feedback on the application she had provided, and pursuant to approval from the EDA, they could open up the grant cycle for the remainder of the fiscal year, during which time the committee would review project applications and award funding as available. She discussed the recommended changes and other potential initiatives and partnerships that could involve this grant program.



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Mrs. Henderson asked if the County had any program to provide funding to new, start-up businesses.

Mrs. Chapline replied that they did not currently have such a program, but it would typically be handled by the EDA. She said that they had two small business development forums that would discuss the Small Business Development Center's work and opportunities.

A motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mrs. Monahan accept the qualifications for the Small Business Development Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mr. Godfrey to direct staff to develop the application for the Small Business Grant Program and establish the application timeframe from March 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Town of Claremont Loan Update

Mrs. Perkins provided an update on the Town of Claremont loan. She stated that last month, Claremont had provided the owner's son with a copy of the letter they had previously sent, but they had not heard anything since then.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Amendment to Bylaws

Mrs. Perkins provided an overview of the item. She explained that the proposed amendment would update the language in the bylaws related to participation by electronic communications, an option available to any member of the EDA that could not physically attend a meeting. The changes would more accurately mirror the language in Virginia Code. She noted that the EDA had the ability to amend the bylaws at any point, they just needed to put it on the agenda for a future meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Howell seconded by to approve the amendment to the bylaws as presented. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.



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OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mrs. Chapline presented the Office of Economic Development Report. She reported that Mrs. Henderson was recognized by the Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting, where she received the key to the County and a Resolution in her honor. Additionally, they were seeing a significant amount of activity from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) and continued to market their available sites. She stated that several bills were proposed in the General Assembly that would affect several energy projects, and she would provide updates to the EDA as things progressed. She stated that they were also joining in several educational initiatives for their local businesses, as well as development of agro-tourism opportunities. She stated that they would also be working on strategic planning in tandem with the Board of Supervisors.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

- **Mrs. Henderson** – She thanked her colleagues for electing her to serve again as Treasurer for the EDA. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Hardy for attending the EDA's meetings. She said that it was a pleasure to work with everyone and she looked forward to a great 2026. She noted the importance of the Comprehensive Plan update in informing their work on the EDA. She encouraged everyone to support the Board and EDA and ensure they had a plan to facilitate economic development, specifically as it related to the infrastructure of the County. She added that while she was recently recognized by the Board, her success was only possible through their achievements as a team, and she was grateful to her EDA colleagues for that.
- **Mr. Howell** – congratulated Mrs. Henderson on her recognition by the Board of Supervisors, which was well-deserved, and he thanked her for all the effort and energy she put into her role as Treasurer. He thanked everyone in attendance this evening and looked forward to a productive 2026.
- **Mr. Godfrey** – congratulated everyone on their election to office in the EDA. He thanked EDA staff and County staff, as well as Mr. Hardy for all their dedication. He stated that he looked forward to 2026, especially the Small Business Grant Program. He said that he looked forward to receiving the Rural Development Loan Program



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presentation at a future meeting. He said that he also appreciated receiving the Treasurer's Report, as it was good to know they had funds available for business development in the County.

- **Mrs. Monahan** – agreed with her colleagues' remarks. She expressed her appreciation to her fellow EDA members and to County staff. She thanked Mrs. Henderson for her remarkable work, which extended beyond her title as Treasurer.
- **Chairman Wooden** – thanked the EDA Board and the Economic Development Office for their condolences regarding the passing of his grandfather. He thanked Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Chapline, and Mrs. Pierce for all their efforts in support of the EDA Board. He thanked Mr. Hardy for the things he did for the County and the information he shared to move the County in the right direction were greatly appreciated. He thanked his colleagues for entrusting him with the position of Chairman again. He looked forward to continuing to serve and move the County in the right direction. He stated that there was a lot of activity in the County, and they could work together to bring more opportunities to fruition. He stated that he looked forward to learning about available programs, including the Rural Development Loan/Grant that could benefit the County. He stated that he was also grateful they were going to get their Small Business Grant Program started soon, which would help invest more back in the County. He stated that there were a few projects underway that looked very promising and he hoped they would continue to bring opportunities to Surry. He expressed his appreciation to everyone for working together to move things in the right direction. He said that he would also like to have a joint work session with the Board of Supervisors soon so they could all ensure they were on the same page.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mrs. Monahan to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.