

**Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
November 15, 2017 – Board Meeting – 2:00pm
TCL New River Campus, Conference Room**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Murray, Alsko, Fobes, Sulka, Willis, Bennett, Gough, O'Toole

Guests: Charlie Clark, Joe Croley, Ashley Feaster, Joe Fragale, Chris Hook, Sandy Steele

Chairman Murray called the meeting to order at 2:05pm

Minutes from the October 31, 2017 Special Board Meeting were reviewed; motion to accept was moved by Bennett; seconded by Fobes; approved 6-0

Alsko reviewed the status of the draft bylaws; he reviewed the three outstanding corrections: 1) amending a header within the document; 2) shifting appointment power of private sector board members from County Council to the BCEDC Board; 3) shifting the majority of board membership from private sector to public sector. Alsko noted that item one was an administrative correction; item two was previously acted up on by the Board; and item three would require Board discussion and action. Gough moved that the bylaws be amended to replace one private sector seat with a public seat for a member of the Beaufort County School System to be filled by or appointed by the Superintendent; Fobes seconded; approved 7-0

O'Toole reviewed his draft financial policy; areas covered included asset protection; budgeting; compensation and benefits; application and use of funds; cost of governance; and staffing. O'Toole also reviewed a draft policy on expense reimbursement. Gough asked for additional language on how we would reimburse O'Toole for normal course of business expenses; Bennett suggested the Board should review mileage vs. car allowance at a point in the future to determine what was more advantageous to the Corporation and O'Toole. Chairman Murray suggested we review the feedback and place this item back on the December agenda.

Chairman Murray stated that O'Toole will compile a RFP for CPA and/or accounting services; services to include general bookkeeping, audit support, and our 501c3 application.

Sandy Steele, Director of Operations for the Southern Carolina Alliance, provided an update on Alliance activities and Beaufort County's integration into the Alliance.

Chairman Murray updated the Board that the Governmental Committee of County Council voted unanimously to terminate the agreement with the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce for economic development support services; Murray stated that full Council was briefed earlier in the week on the request and that the Chamber knows that this agreement will be terminated in or around the next 60 days.

O'Toole presented his Executive Director report to the Board; items included web development direction; presentations provided to Synovus/NBSC and County Governmental Committee; an introduction to the SC DOC; site reviews and inventory; tours of all municipalities. O'Toole provided an explanation of the pyramid for success graphic on the agenda.

Chairman Murray discussed the need for the Board to authorize O'Toole to apply for PEBA benefits. Gough moved that the Board authorize the Executive Director to complete and submit an application, on behalf of

the BCEDC, to PEBA for the purpose of securing employee benefits for the Corporation; Fobes seconded; approved 7-0

Chairman Murray provided a budget update to the Board; the County and all municipalities have cut their funding checks for the Corporation

Chairman Murray initiated a discussion regarding securing private support for the BCEDC; O'Toole reviewed different strategies to consider as the Board expands; Fobes provided feedback that the Board should seek as much private support as possible over time.

Murray provided a reminder that the next meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 2:00pm at TCL New River Campus

Chairman Murray opened the meeting to comments; Joe Fragale spoke about an idea for a monorail that recently surfaced; Chris Hook spoke about conflict of interest with private membership, seeking clarification on the motion related to the inclusion of the K-12 educational member, and other questions pertaining to the BCEDC and SCA

Chairman Murray entertained a motion to enter executive session to review the current prospect list; Fobes moved; Alsko seconded; approved 5-0; the Board entered executive session at 3:17pm

The Board exited executive session at 3:38pm with no action taken

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm