

COLUMBIA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

162 S. Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida 32025

Phone 386/752-3690 Fax 755-7744

Minutes of the IDA Board of Directors meeting held at Lake City Community College Administrative Bldg Board/Conference Room. The meeting was held on December 2, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. and Chair Donna Brown was presiding. A quorum was present.

Directors present: Donna Brown, Suzanne Norris, Carlton Jones, Jeff Simmons, Gus Rentz

Directors absent: Mike Millikin, Marc Vann

Staff present: Jim Poole, Gina Reynolds

Visitors present: Tony Britt, Lake City Reporter
Craig Womer
Shawn Justice, PBS&J

Public comment: Notice was read into the record by Vice-Chair, Suzanne Norris. “The Columbia County IDA will hear any citizen who wishes to address the Board, on a one time basis, pertaining to a relevant topic. If the Board wishes to hear more about the topic, that topic will be scheduled for a future Board meeting. Each speaker is limited to three minutes and the time dedicated to this topic will not exceed twenty minutes.”

No public comment was made.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Suzanne Norris **Second** by Gus Rentz to accept the minutes of the IDA Board meeting held on November 4, 2009. **Motion carried unanimously**

Acceptance of financial report: The November financials were not available.

Executive Director’s Report: Jim Poole

- **Economic Gardening:** The State of Florida has introduced a pilot loan program. The program will loan up to \$250,000 to a business that has been profitable 3 of the last 5 years and can grow with additional capital. The loan interest is 2%. For each \$50,000 received, the company will have to create one new job. The University of Central Florida is providing training expertise to the successful loan applicants and the loan is being administered by the Black Business Investment Fund of Florida (BBIF). As of November 18th, 14 companies had been qualified to apply for the loans and were waiting official approval
- The Rural and Urban Working Issues groups are requesting that the Florida Legislature and the Governor allow changing the Urban Jobs Tax Program and the Rural Jobs Tax Program from a credit to a refund program.
- A few months ago Enterprise Florida held forums around the state to gain input on their strategic plan. One of the forums was held in Gainesville. Logistics and distribution will play a major role in Enterprise Florida’s five year plan. Specifically, the inland port efforts for Columbia County and the Logistics and Distribution Banner Center located at Lake City Community College and its role were included in the discussions and notes included in the draft plan. The plan is available at the EFI website.
- Provided a letter of support for the Space Alliance to continue space exploration out of Cape Kennedy. A presentation was made to the EFI Stakeholders during the quarterly meeting with the request for letters of support.
- North Florida Economic Development Partnership: Completing feasibility study on Broadband for region. Waiting on results of regional broadband committee on receiving stimulus grant to use for broadband expansion in rural areas.
- Integrated Logistics Center: Plum Creek received approval from County Board of Commissioners on mixed use land change. Once the final approval is received from Department of Community Affairs, we will move forward with catalyst industrial park and the development of the ILC to serve as an inland port concept.

- Speculative Prison: I have read the report issued from the first public hearing and including the impact study paid for by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Gina obtained a copy of the RFP that was the basis for companies like the one Mike Harling represents to apply to be an eligible applicant with the FBOP to obtain contracts to operate a private prison housing illegal aliens convicted of crimes in the U.S. and awaiting deportation and trial.
 - The following are some of the items that require further explanation:
 1. The study states that there is no activity planned for the area of Columbia County in which the proposed site is located. This raises the question of who did the group completing the study communicate with on the local level to obtain information. As I previously mentioned, the County Commissioners approved the mixed use amendment for Plum Creek. The property amendment has been worked on for the past two years. That should have been included in the study because the property being proposed for the prison is contiguous to the Plum Creek property.
 2. The study stated that the proposed property is zoned light industrial. The property is actually zoned Ag. Once again, where did the group obtain their information?
 3. The study points out that there will be additional ambulance requirements if the facility is located in Columbia County. The study does not state who would be responsible for the additional cost.
 4. The RFP states that the contractor must accept any prisoners that the FBOP assigns to the facility.
 5. The RFP states that the contract could be cancelled at any time after the first year and the maximum time for the contract would be 10 years.
 6. The RFP states that the prison officers would have to be deputized to have arresting powers in the service area. Once again, there is no clarification of who is liable for these officers' actions.
 7. In case of a murder, suicide or in case of uncertainty of death, the body would have to be given to the local coroner for autopsy. No clarity on who pays for the autopsy.
 8. The prison jobs would be private sector jobs, not federal jobs. The private company would follow Federal guidelines for the pay scale based on a salary survey conducted by the FBOP for the area. Since the jobs would be private sector jobs, federal benefits would not be offered.
 9. Legal jurisdiction would be for the government entity with the most stringent law. No mention of how this is paid for. Raises question of impact on local court system and local law enforcement.
 10. No specific requirements for credentials and experience of company that would operate the facility.
 11. If a U. S. Congressman or Senator planned to visit or obtain information on the facility, a prior notification to FBOP is required.

Old Business:

- Rudder Team meetings, session 6 will be held on afternoon of December 2nd. Will have a draft of the plan soon. After consensus of Rudder Team is reached, the plan will be presented to the IDA Board. Once approved by the IDA Board, the plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners to review and adopt. After adoption, the IDA will implement the plan.

New Business:

- IDA Board members to advise their availability on February 2nd or February 11th for the next Board of County Commission/IDA Board joint meeting.
- The County Commission approved Carlton Jones and Jeff Simmons to serve another 4 year term on the IDA Board.
- There was consensus of the IDA Board for Jim Poole to send a letter of opposition to the Federal Bureau of Prisons about the speculative prison.
- A letter was sent to Lake City Community College in support of their name change to Florida's Gateway College.

Next Meeting – 8:30 a.m., January 6, 2010. Location: Lake Shore Hospital Authority

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by:

Gina Reynolds, Secretary