

TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Called Incentives and Loans Committee Meeting

Friday, December 18, 2020
10:00 o'clock a.m.

Electronic Conference Call Meeting

INCENITVES AND LOANS COMMITTEE MEETING
December 18, 2020

APPEARANCES:

The Honorable Lashrecse D. Aird

Ms. Gretchen Clark

The Honorable Chris L. Hurst

Ms. June Jennings Deputy Sec. of Finance, for Sec. Layne)

Ms. Coley D. Jones

The Honorable Terry G, Kilgore

The Honorable Thomas Jordan Miles, III

The Honorable Joe Morrissey

The Honorable Sam Rasoul

COMMISSION STAFF:

Mr. Evan Feinman, Executive Director

Mr. Andy Sorrell, Deputy Director

Mr. Mike Kaestner, Grants Program Director

Ms. Stephanie Kim, Finance Director

Ms. Sara Williams, Southwest Regional Director

Ms. Joyce Knight, Meeting Coordinator

Mr. Jordan Butler, Public Relations Director

Mr. David Bringman, Database & Performance Metrics Manager

DELEGATE AIRD: I'm going to call the Committee meeting to order and ask Evan to call the roll and determine if a quorum exists.

MR. FEINMAN: Present: Delegate Aird, Ms. Clark, Delegate Hurst, Delegate Kilgore, Ms. Jennings, Senator Morrissey, Delegate Rasoul, Mr. Miles, Ms. Jones. Absent: Senator Chafin, Mr. Blevins. You have a quorum.

DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you. I now request that the committee review the minutes posted on the website from our last meeting (9/28/2020). Do I have motion that they be approved?

DELEGATE KILGORE: I'll make that motion.

DELEGATE HURST: and I'll second the motion.

DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you. Are there any questions? Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the minutes please say aye. (Ayes.) Any opposed? (no response.). The motion is carried.

DELEGATE AIRD: We are going to do something a little different this time, Andy, I think this is the appropriate time, where we will invite public comment? During the last meeting the recommendation was made to allow for public comment at the outset of the meeting prior to us taking a vote or any action. For the structure of this meeting, we will be inviting public comment both at the opening and closing, so at this time we will invite public comment. (no response.) Hearing or seeing none, am I overlooking anyone Evan?

MR. FEINMAN: No Madam Chair, I don't believe there are any members of the public dialed in, but we wanted to give it a shot if since we did not recognize every phone number.

DELEGATE AIRD: Ok great. At this time I think we are prepared to move into closed session and I will entertain a motion to do so.

DELEGATE HURST: Madam Chair I have a motion.

DELEGATE AIRD: Yes, Delegate Hurst.

DELEGATE HURST: Thank you Madam Chair. I move that we go into a closed meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

The purpose of this closed session is to discuss a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

The subject of this closed session is for the discussion of a Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Incentive for Project Apex.

The applicable exemption from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act is § 2.2-3711(A)(39) and I would so move Madam Chair.

DELEGATE AIRD: The motion has been made. Do I have a second?

DELEGATE KILGORE: second.

DELEGATE AIRD: There has been a second. Are there any questions or comments? (no response.) Hearing none, all in favor of going into closed session please say aye – Evan I think we can do a voice vote to go into closed session correct?

MR. FEINMAN: You can do a voice vote to go in to closed session, a roll call vote is needed to come out.

DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you. All in favor of going into closed session? (Ayes.) Any opposed? (no response.) Motion is carried. We will not enter into closed session. I believe you all should have received the link to access the closed session portion of this meeting, so we will transition from this meeting to that one.

DELEGATE KILGORE: So we need to get off of this one and go on that one?

DELEGATE AIRD: Correct.

NOTE: A CLOSED SESSION IS HELD; WHEREUPON, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CLOSED SESSION, THE COMMISSION MEETING RESUMES IN OPEN SESSION, VIS:

DELEGATE AIRD: We now need to vote to affirm that we were covering exactly what we said we would cover in the closed session.

DELEGATE HURST: Madam Chair I have a motion to that effect.

DELEGATE AIRD: Delegate Hurst.

DELEGATE HURST: Thank you Madam Chair. I move that we vote on and record our certification that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting.

DELEGATE AIRD: A motion has been made is there a second?

DELEGATE KILGORE: Second.

DELEGATE AIRD: The motion has been moved and properly seconded. Are there any questions or comments? May we please have the roll call at this time?

MR. FEINMAN: Absolutely Madam Chairwoman. Delegate Aird?

DELEGATE AIRD: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Senator Chafin? (no response). Mr. Blevins? (No response.) Ms. Clark?

MS. CLARK: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Hurst?

DELEGATE HURST: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Jennings?

MS. JENNINGS: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Kilgore?

DELEGATE KILGORE: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Senator Morrissey?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Rasoul?

DELEGATE RASOUL: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Miles?

MR. MILES: Aye.

MR. FEINMAN: Madam Chairwoman, the motion carries unanimously.

DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you so much. Now that we are back to open session, Evan I would ask that you lead us through the recommendation.

MR. FEINMAN: Thank you Madam Chairwoman. For the motion that staff is seeking is that this committee approve that staff offer a \$ 3.6 million grant and a \$240,000 zero interest loan for Project Apex subject to the following conditions:

- Maintain employment of at least 300 jobs at a median wage of at least \$50,000 for at least a decade. Further,
- An additional regional entity will guarantee at least 100 jobs to be attracted to the region and that those jobs be in the technology sector and not be eligible for additional TROF funding. Finally,
- A building constructed with these proceeds will be located at University of Virginia – Wise and shall be owned and operated by the university.

DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you so much Evan. Is there a motion to adopt that recommendation from staff?

DELEGATE RASOUL: So moved.

DELEGATE KILGORE: Second.

DELEGATE AIRD: I have a motion that has been moved and properly seconded. Do I have any comments or questions at this time? And I guess we need to take public comment before we vote again?

MR. FEINMAN: That is at the election of the Chair – you certainly may.

DELEGATE AIRD: I'd ask if there are any public comment or questions prior to the Commission taking a vote on this recommendation. Ok hearing none, all in favor say aye. (Ayes.) Are there any no's? (no response.) That motion carries. Thank you so much.

MR. FEINMAN: Madam Chair, I believe we will have one abstention.

DELEGATE AIRD: That is right – any abstentions?

DELEGATE HURST: Do we need to do this as a recorded vote then? Or if it is a voice vote then...

MR. FEINMAN: You can abstain from the voice vote and I will record that for the record Delegate Hurst.

DELEGATE HURST: If it is not a recorded vote it is not a recorded vote but okay. If it is a recorded vote and you are marking down abstentions, I would like to be noted as an abstention Madam Chair.

DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you. Evan will make sure that is properly noted. At this time, Evan and Andy, is there any additional business for the Commission?

MR. FEINMAN: No Madam Chairwoman, Stephen Moret texted me and said he had an 11 am (meeting) that he needed to get to, but he thanks the committee for allowing him to join you and share his thinking and for your continued support of new project development in Virginia, as do the staff.

DELEGATE AIRD: Thank you so much. I appreciate again everyone taking the time to get on this call for this critical business that we needed to address, but I do not have any other additional business and I hope that you all have a great holiday season. Unless there is anything further, I will now entertain adjourning the meeting.

DELGATE RASOUL: So moved.

DELEGATE KILGORE: Seconded.

DELEGATE AIRD: It has been moved and properly seconded the meeting is adjourned. Happy holidays everyone.

PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.