

1 **VIRGINIA TOBACCO INDEMNIFICATION**
2 **AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

3 701 E. Franklin Street, Suite 501
4 Richmond, VA 23219

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9 **Southside Economic Development Committee Meeting**

10 Thursday, April 23, 2009

11 8:30 AM

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14 Hotel Roanoke
15 Roanoke, Virginia

1 **APPEARANCES:**

2 The Honorable Edward Owens, Chairman

3 The Honorable Kathy J. Byron, Vice Chairman

4 The Honorable Lynn Hammond, Deputy Secretary of Commerce &
5 Trade

6 Mr. L. Jackson Hite

7 The Honorable Daniel W. Marshall, III

8 The Honorable Frank M. Ruff

9 The Honorable Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

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11 COMMISSION STAFF

12 Mr. Neal Noyes, Executive Director

13 Mr. Ned Stephenson, Deputy Director

14 Mr. Timothy J. Pfohl, Grants Program Administration Manager

15 Ms. Sarah Capps, Grants Coordinator, Southside Virginia

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17 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

18 Mr. Francis N. Ferguson, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel for the
19 Commission

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1 MR. OWENS: I call the meeting of the
2 Southside Economic Development to order. I'll ask Mr. Noyes to call
3 the roll.

4 MR. NOYES: Mr. Bryant is not here.
5 Delegate Byron.

6 DELEGATE BYRON: Here

7 MR. NOYES: Mr. Day?

8 MR. DAY: (No response.)

9 MR. NOYES: Deputy Secretary Hammond?

10 DEPUTY SECRETARY HAMMOND: Here.

11 MR. NOYES: Mr. Harwood?

12 MR. HARWOOD: (No response.)

13 MR. NOYES: Mr. Hite?

14 MR. HITE: Here.

15 MR. NOYES: Delegate Hogan?

16 DELEGATE HOGAN: (No response.)

17 MR. NOYES: Delegate Marshall?

18 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Here.

19 MR. NOYES: Mr. Moody?

20 MR. MOODY: (No response.)

21 MR. NOYES: Ms. Nyholm?

22 MS. NYHOLM: (No response.)

23 MR. NOYES: Mr. Owens?

24 MR. OWENS: Here.

25 MR. NOYES: Senator Reynolds?

1 SENATOR REYNOLDS: (No response.)

2 MR. NOYES: Senator Ruff?

3 SENATOR RUFF: Here.

4 MR. NOYES: Delegate Wright?

5 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Here.

6 MR. NOYES: Of those present, we have a
7 quorum, Mr. Chairman.

8 MR. OWENS: We have one item of business
9 which is Grant #1786. Tim, do you want to give us a quick overview?

10 MR. PFOHL: Sure. Bedford County is the
11 applicant requesting 55,000 for legal and engineering costs to establish a
12 broadband authority under the state code that provides for the creation of
13 wireless service authority. There have been some follow-up
14 conversations since this project was discussed at length last week in the
15 Committee meeting. I think there is general consensus now that the
16 broadband authority would compliment the efforts of Mid-Atlantic
17 Broadband and would utilize their backhaul capability that would
18 compliment tower sites that Mid-Atlantic Broadband may provide. It
19 would be the authority that would have the ability to access state
20 property and county property to access financing from the Virginia
21 Resource Authority which can do broadband financing. Delegate Byron
22 has had conversations with the locality and Mid-Atlantic Broadband may
23 want to add something.

24 DELEGATE BYRON: Thank you. We've
25 had quite lengthy discussions, and we've talked to Tad. The whole

1 region is working on similar models that would enable them to get the
2 last mile. I think it is an initiative that, and many of us look at the
3 authority as some kind of legal entity and something that is temporary
4 and something that the attorney assures me that the whole purpose is
5 only in helping to accomplish the things that Tim has already mentioned.
6 Once that has been done, the authority will be dissolved. There no
7 interest in running wireless, broadband, or anything from a government
8 standpoint. They are there to leverage things and they are going to have
9 a commitment that they use the MBC backhaul from a private provider.
10 I think it is a good move economic development-wise. Tad is here if
11 anybody has any questions.

12 SENATOR RUFF: My only concern is that
13 there be a competitive market throughout Southside. We want to keep it
14 as competitive as we can and make sure the Authority keeps it
15 competitive.

16 DELEGATE BYRON: That was my first
17 question about it being competitive. Is that right, Tad? I see you
18 shaking your head. So I'd make a motion that we accept or that we
19 recommend approving the grant.

20 SENATOR RUFF: Second.

21 MR. OWENS: It has been moved and
22 seconded, any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye?
23 (Ayes.) Opposed? (No response.) The motion carries.

24 Any public comment? This meeting is adjourned.

25 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.

1 CERTIFICATE OF THE COURT REPORTER

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I, Medford W. Howard, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large, do hereby certify that I was the court reporter who took down and transcribed the proceedings of the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission, Southside Economic Development Committee Meeting when held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 8:30 AM in the Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia.

I further certify this is a true and accurate transcript to the best of my ability to hear and understand the proceedings.

Given under my hand this 30th day of April, 2009.

Medford W. Howard
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large

My Commission Expires: October 31, 2010.
Court Reporter #224566