

Town of Richlands  
Industrial Development Authority  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Richlands IDA held a regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P.M. with the following present:

Joseph Vance	Dr. Brandon Buskill
Craig Earls	Dillion Smith

Members Absent: Phillip Horton  
Town Representatives: Jordan Bales, Laura Mollo  
Guests:

Dr. Brandon Buskill called the meeting to order.  
Dillion Smith was sworn in on 6/5/23 at the Tazewell County Courthouse.

Craig Earls made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Brandon Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

The minutes from the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 meetings were presented. Joseph Vance made a motion to approve the minutes. Dillion Smith seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

IDA Appointments and New Member Introduction Dillion Smith:

Dillion Smith introduced himself and his experience as a local business owner since 2018. The IDA welcomed Dillion and looks forward to working with him. The group also discussed that Jeff Casey is interested in being appointed to serve on the IDA. He will need to email Ron Holt (Interim Town Manager) to let him know he is interested in the appointment so that it can be voted on during the next Town Council meeting.

Craig Earls made a motion to approve Jeff Casey for Town Council Appointment as the IDA recommendation. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Craig Earls: My term is ending this month, June 2023. He would like to be reappointed to serve on the IDA. Joseph Vance made a motion to reappoint Craig Earls to the Richlands IDA. Dr. Brandon Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”, Craig Earls abstained. Motion carried.

Laura Mollo recommended that the town post it to social media to get more applications. The group agreed.

IDA to E/IDA:

Craig Earls: I investigated us moving our name from IDA to E/IDA. The group discussed the IDA vs EIDA name and looked at the Tazewell EIDA ordinance as an example. In reviewing this example, the powers and duties are the same, but they designated the economic development title in the ordinance. So, this will be a name change and will put more focus on the economic development duties of the board. The group discussed one recent example with CNX moving into the other Mullins Professional building. Any economic development activities should be addressed by the IDA, such as any potential incentives to recommend to the Richlands Town Council for approval.

Laura Mollo: Advised that she looked at the Lynchburg IDA and they have one of the most impressive revitalization efforts going on. They use the chamber of commerce and worked directly with the IDA to drive growth. The director who led the revitalization effort advised that we need to have a list of available properties. Once you have interest, then you can discuss initial capital investment, number of jobs, and wages. These should be custom incentive packages on a per case basis. We can invite the county IDA to our meetings as well to discuss these topics (Tim Danielson). We do have an economic developer in the budget this year. Most of these incentive packages will need to have legal reviews. The group discussed that we do need to come up with a list of properties that are ready for use. Having a good registry for housing will help any businesses coming in as well.

Dr. Brandon Buskill: So, to be an EIDA, we just need town council approval? The group agreed that this will be name change only, no duty changes.

Craig Earls made a motion to recommend to the Richlands Town Council to approve a name change, by ordinance, from Richlands Industrial Development Authority to Richlands Industrial/Economic Development Authority. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Topic:

Dr. Brandon Buskill advised that he has an app that shows the owner of the property when you look it up. OnX is an app that shows property owners and is very useful.

Laura Mollo: One suggestion is to appoint a vice-chairman. The group agreed.

Joseph Vance made a motion to approve Dr. Brandon Buskill for Vice-Chairman of the Richlands IDA. Craig Earls seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye", Dr. Brandon Buskill abstained. Motion carried.

Jordan Bales presented a brochure for business development and what is needed to start a business in Richlands. The QR code can possibly go to a town website with more details. The idea is to give the potential business owner basic information about starting a business in the town of Richlands. The group reviewed the brochure and found it very informative.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Brandon Buskill seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Next Meeting July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 P.M