

Town of Richlands
Industrial/Economic Development Authority
July 1, 2024

The Richlands IEDA held its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. with the following present:

Dr. Brandon Buskill
Cody Harman

Lynna Mitchell
Craig Earls

Members Absent: Joseph Vance, Dillon Smith, Jeff Casey

Town Representatives:

Guests: Mike Jackson (First Bank & Trust Co)

Dr. Brandon Buskill called the meeting to order.

Lynna Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda. Craig Earls seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes from the June 3rd meeting were presented for approval. Lynna Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes and Craig Earls seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the agenda was unanimously approved.

New Business – General Discussion

Dr. Brandon Buskill: Keisha Cole was hired as the Community Development Coordinator and was formally with the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce.

Lynna Mitchell: During the last meeting, I was with Mayor Curry in St. Paul to accept a grant for Critterville park. It will be utilized for rehabilitation of the playground.

Dr. Brandon Buskill: We have been tasked to continue identifying sites within town where new businesses can come. These can be existing, or possibly new sites, that can be built upon. We have provided suggestions and some questions. We still need to discuss incentives as well.

Lynna Mitchell: We also make recommendations for these incentives back to council.

Mike Jackson: As a bank (First Bank & Trust) we serve commercial loans for this area and want to grow our deposit base. We are looking more closely at a new location in Pounding Mill.

Dr. Brandon Buskill: We hope that we get more business, so that we need more banks. We have a generator project that is in the works as well. I also had someone reach out to me about 6,000 square feet of office space for 2027. The group discussed the request and hope to receive more information as the timing approaches.

Cody Harman: The town manager asked me about the trailer court near the Valero on Kents Ridge Road. The Cordle family currently owns the property. One of the owners is interested in possibly selling, but I am not for sure about the other.

Lynna Mitchell: There are some grants to help with getting rid of these types of properties. There are a lot of grants that the town is eligible for, but we need someone to write them. The group discussed.

Miscellaneous Topics

Cody Harman: Do we have any state programs to help with homeowners and reconditioning?

Craig Earls: Yes, you do have FHA and other programs. The group discussed.

Cody Harman: There is a building on Birmingham Road that has a metal building that is for sale or lease. This building is approximately 3,000 square feet. This is the old Hurt Pipe Company Building and they are asking \$250,000.

No further discussion items or actions taken.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Lynna Mitchell seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: August 5th, at 6 p.m.