

Bullock County Development Authority
Regular Session Meeting
April 5, 2022

The Bullock County Development Authority held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room at 106 Conecuh Avenue East, with Chairman LaDerrick Caldwell presiding.

Members Present

Melma Gillis
Cope Lawrence
LaDerrick Caldwell
Lawrence Penn

Members Absent

Thomas Main
Marsha Moffett
Roderick Clark

Others Present

David Padgett
Meagan Faulk
Elizabeth Smithart
Cynthia Smithart
Rob Cameron
Collie Graddick
Darren Beachum

A work session was held prior to the meeting at 4:30 pm.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m. by Chairman LaDerrick Caldwell.

Lawrence Penn made a motion to accept the agenda with an addendum (MedCamp Scholarships), and Melma Gillis provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes (March 1, 2022) were reviewed and approved upon a motion made by Cope Lawrence. Melma Gillis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Cynthia Smithart reviewed the financial reports for March. Cope Lawrence made a motion to accept & approve the report. Lawrence Penn provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Smithart presented a resolution on behalf of the BCDA deeding property to the City of Union Springs located on March Street for the location of a Community Center. During last month's meeting, Tim Simpson, Engineer for the City of Union Springs, presented a request for a portion of land located on March Street (across from DHR) pending the sale of the current Recreation Center to Wayne Farms. Mr. Simpson asked that a commitment be made from BCDA to transfer the deed over to the City of Union Springs once the sale has been finalized and the City is ready to construct the new Community Center/Recreation Center. The City of Union Springs and Wayne Farms are currently in negotiations. Wayne Farms intends to tear down the old building and expand their operations. Lawrence Penn made a motion to give Chairman

LaDerrick Caldwell and Secretary Thomas Main authorization to sign Resolution 2022-002. Melma Gillis provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Padgett presented an updated Site Prep Guidelines list. He asked the board to review prior to the next meeting and make recommendations & suggestions.

Rob Cameron, Bullock County Rescue, requested assistance for an off-road Honda, five passenger, 4WD utility vehicle and rescue equipment for the purpose of lost & injured hunters as well as lost elderly & dementia patients. Several calls were made over the last year and the Bullock County Rescue did not have the means or equipment needed to perform the searches. Mr. Cameron requested up to 50% or \$15,000.00 (via IST funds) of the total price (\$29,996.00). The vehicle & equipment will be housed in the Union Springs Fire Department. Wayne Farms donated \$2,000.00 to towards the purchase. Cope Lawrence made a motion to approve the request. Lawrence Penn provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Padgett introduced Darren Beachem and Collie Graddick, Members of the East Alabama Blackbelt Farmer's Market. They explained the partnership with Barbour County Farmer's Arena in Clayton & the Auburn University Extension Program. Mr. Beachem and Mr. Graddick explained the need for assistance regarding a USDA grant through Auburn University. BCDA would not be financially responsible but act as the fiscal agent. BCDA's assistance would be to provide a DUNS number for the grant as well as the SAMS.gov information. East Alabama Blackbelt Farmer's Market is a non-profit organization. The program is designed to increase production and distribution of fruits & vegetables throughout Bullock County & surrounding areas, including the school system. The request for BCDA to be the fiscal agent was tabled for thirty days.

Southeast Alabama AHEC Program submitted a request asking for a tuition sponsorship for two students (up to \$1,000.00). "Discovery MedCamp (DMC)" is a five-day, residential, enrichment program for high school students who have an interest in healthcare careers. Previously, BCDA has sponsored one student from Bullock County High School/Career Tech and one student from Conecuh Springs Christian School. Cope Lawrence made a motion to approve the request. Melma Gillis provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Cope Lawrence announced the airport should have new fuel tanks with sensors in mid-April. Also, the fence has been completed. He will give an airport update during the next board meeting.

Wayne Farms & the City of Union Springs has reached an agreement regarding the Recreation Center. The City will need to vacate the property by January 1, 2023. The 82 West property has been purchased by Wayne Farms as well.

AcePak purchased the old John Miller Building to expand their production.

Career Fair with Bonnie Plants is scheduled for April 27, 2022.

David Padgett will travel to Ohio with Bonnie Plants.

EDAA Summer Conference is scheduled for July 23 -27, 2022.

Chairman Caldwell discussed the facilities being upgraded for the Bullock County School District. He also discussed the press box needs to be upgraded but the School District was short of funds.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m. on the motion of Cope Lawrence and a second by Melma Gillis. The vote passed unanimously.