

**Board Meeting
April 20, 2021**

**St. Landry Parish Economic Industrial Development District
Business Resource Center
5367 I-49 S. Service Road
Opelousas, LA 70570**

Chairman, Andy Dakin opened the regular board meeting at 10:03 A.M.

Voting Members Present in Person: Andy Dakin, Donald Dejean, Roma Stewart, Hals Beard, Lynn Lejeune, Lena Charles, Seth Robin, Ken Simeral, Erika Milton, Wil Fontenot, Don Reber, Daniel Lyons and Candace Papillion

Voting Members Present Virtually: N/A

Voting Members Absent: Brett Manuel, Dr. Gerald Thompson and Kevin Simoneaux

Non-Voting Members Present in Person: Bill Rodier and Taylor Lormand

It was determined a quorum was present.

The following guests were in attendance in person: N/A

The following guests were in attendance virtually: N/A

Public Announcements: None

Meeting Minutes: A motion to adopt the March 2021 Board Meeting minutes was made by Wil Fontenot and seconded by Erika Milton. Motion carried without objection.

Financial Report: Hals Beard provided an overview of the March 2021 financials. A motion to adopt the March 2021 financials was made by Lynn Lejeune and seconded by Erika Milton. Motion carried without objection.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee Report: A motion to adopt the March 2021 Executive Committee Meeting minutes was made by Hals Beard and seconded by Wil Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

New Business:

Board Member Vacancy: Chairman Dakin gave an update on a newly vacated board seat. Ken Marks tendered his resignation effective March 31, 2021. We will notify the local chapter of the Louisiana Municipal Association of their right to nominate candidates. Current SLED board members are also allowed to nominate candidates. If no candidates are nominated, the board opening will remain vacant until the end of the original term in December 2022. Chairman Dakin requests that all nominations be submitted no less than 10 days prior to the next board meeting which will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Old Business:

Staff Update: Bill Rodier gave an update on the hiring process to fill the vacant Office Administrator (formerly Economic Development Support Coordinator) position resulting from Ms. Glenda Carriere's resignation. A five-person hiring committee was formed with representatives from SLED as well as ODDD and Vision and Taylor Lormand. Each candidate went through several phases of screening and scoring, resulting in 7 interviews being scheduled over the course of two days. Three final recommendations were made by the committee.

A final candidate has been selected by Bill Rodier and will start on May 4th. A motion to move forward with an offer to this candidate in the amount of \$45,000.00 per year with health benefits beginning no more than 90 days and SEP IRA contributions beginning no more than 6 months following the official start date was made in the Executive Committee meeting on April 13, 2021. A motion to ratify the decision of Executive Committee was made by Ken Simeral and seconded by Lena Charles. Motion carried without objection.

An update to the job title and description was made at the beginning of this process. This position is now referred to as the Office Administrator. A motion to approve the new job title, description and salary range was made by Don Reber and seconded by Erika Milton. Motion carried without objection.

Property Disposition: Andy Dakin presented an opinion received from the Department of Administration pertaining to the sale of our property adjacent to the Walmart Distribution Center. According to Chairman Dakin, this opinion appears to be sufficient for our immediate need however, Chairman Dakin suggested the continuing need for an opinion from the Attorney General's office that would serve as guidance for any future land sales. Chairman Dakin will be reaching out to Bruce Gaudin to coordinate this request.

Bill Rodier recounted recent conversations he has had with a local specialized agricultural appraiser from The Land Bank who explained the significant difference between the valuation of commercial lands and agricultural lands. The property does not appear to be of any commercial value due to changing elevations throughout the tract as well as overall terrain and location. We will be getting a 2nd appraisal that should reflect more accurate land value based on current market, accounting for terrain shortcomings and in consideration of assuming maintenance responsibilities for the road.

Cooperative Committee Agreement: Bill Rodier stated Pride Doran with the CSLEDD board reviewed the Cooperative Executive Committee document created by Andy Dakin but had a few suggestions on adjustments that he would like to see in the wording. He suggested the word Executive be changed to Advisory. Ogden Pitre with the ODDD Board has received the document and is in the process of reviewing it. Andy Dakin stated that this committee would bring representatives from each economic development board together to improve communication between boards, maintain future sustainability and provide opportunities for cooperation between districts and boards.

Walmart PILOT: Chairman Dakin and Bill Rodier gave an update on conversations regarding the current PILOT contract we have in place with Walmart. Mr. Rodier explained the conversations and recommendations from Eric LaFleur, our attorney of record on this issue. Mr. LaFleur has provided a draft letter to Walmart requesting re-negotiation of the original contract. A motion to send this letter to Walmart was made by Wil Fontenot and seconded by Roma Stewart. Ken Simeral voted in opposition of this motion. Motion carried.

Priority of Work: Bill Rodier began by giving an update on the status of the Priority of Work. While we have made great progress on this document, we have had to shift our staff's

focus to other items due to Glenda's absence and the normal nature of our daily operations. Chairman Dakin will be joining this effort within the next two weeks to review the current draft, give input on feasibility of priorities and help to finalize the plan.

Board Training: Bill Rodier gave a training presentation focused on Business Expansion and Retention.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn at 11:43 am by Seth Robin and seconded by Daniel Lyons. Motion carried without objection.

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN:

Secretary

Andy Dakin