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OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TERREBONNE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017

Vice-President Chris Lapeyre called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mrs. Dawn Henry.

Members recorded as present were: Mr. Bobby Barthel, Mr. Tommy Guarisco, Mr. Nick Hebert, Mr. Ronald LaBauve, Mr. Chris Lapeyre, and Mr. Michael LaGarde (arrived at 12:07 pm). Those recorded as absent were Mr. Chad Hebert, Dr. Michael Garcia and Mr. Ivan Williams. Also present were Mr. Matt Rookard, TEDA's CEO; and Mrs. Dawn Henry, TEDA's executive secretary.

Vice-President Lapeyre made three calls for public wishing to address the board with no response.

Mr. N. Hebert motioned to approve the June 13, 2017, board minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Barthel. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. N. Hebert presented the June financial reports, noting a few items: the audit fees of \$3,000; a one-time entry of \$4,125 for other commercial lines insurance; training conferences and travel expenses Mr. Rookard spoke about previously; salary and wages are higher due to three payrolls hitting in one month instead of two; the pension item is higher than what it should be due to a parish accounting issue that we are working with them to correct. We are on target with where we should be with the budget for this year. Mr. Barthel moved to accept the report as presented, seconded by Mr. Guarisco. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lapeyre presented the audit report which was tabled last meeting so the board members could review it. Mr. N. Hebert spoke to Mr. Pernell Pellegrin, and Mr. Pellegrin stated he has not received any feedback, negative or otherwise, from the state or other agencies he is required to submit the audit to. Mr. N. Hebert moved to approve the audit as submitted, seconded by Mr. Barthel. The motion passed unanimously.

In the business-retention report, Mr. Rookard noted that RFP's are heating up a bit. He and Mrs. Katherine Theriot have been meeting with the Real Estate folks for potential sites in hopes a few will pay off; the video of Terrebonne Parish has been publicly unveiled, SCIA and the Chamber sent it out. We also have jump drives of the video to share; (Mr. Michael LaGarde arrived at the meeting.) We are preparing for the Leadership Terrebonne's economic development day; Mr. Rookard will be presenting at the Chamber's General Membership Luncheon on July 25th; cost savings were discussed when doing business in Louisiana versus Texas based on taxes, noting it is much higher in Louisiana. Mr. Rookard will do an analysis, to understand where the major differences are as this will continue to hurt Louisiana. Louisiana also has the highest sales tax rate in the nation; zoning issues previously discussed where an operating company who had no drainage issues, and once a neighborhood was built adjacent to them, it caused neighbors' flooding. The company invested \$30,000 to correct the issue. The opinion was with proper enforcement the developer could have drained the properties towards the street and avoided the company's additional cost.

Mr. Rookard reported on the unmanned aviation program and working with the airport, Nicholls State University and Fletcher Technical Community College. Dr. Strickland from Fletcher contacted someone from North Dakota State University who is the first FAA approved unmanned aviation test facility. Through conversations, they see the opportunities we see in flying over the Gulf of Mexico to look at security for rigs and the port. They want to explore bringing us on as allies to their approved test facility, linking up through North Dakota State, and having that facility operate in Houma to do some testing. If we are successful, we could be eligible for a fair amount of FAA money as they are only designating five sites throughout the United States and none are in the gulf south. We will continue to explore this opportunity.

Mr. Rookard reported there were 3 community meetings for the Louisiana Safe Business Roundtable, which is a federally and state funded program that works on the issues of sea level rise and how communities respond to this. The next step will be smaller business roundtables to find out the concerns of the businesses. TEDA has offered to host this meeting on August 15th.

Mr. Rookard reported WGNO News with a Twist presented a proposal to have their entire show dedicated and done live in our community. It requires an organizational commitment of \$9,000 to underwrite the program. Total cost is about \$40,000 and WGNO will sell the remainder of the ads with our \$9,000 commitment. It can be focused around an event for promotion or anything else. With our commitment, you get sponsorship of the show and 2 commercial spots. We can split this with others, possibly Fletcher and/or Downtown Development.

Mr. Rookard presented a press release on the CEO Roundtable and a list of the individuals and companies that make up the roundtable in our region.

Mr. Rookard showed a presentation on the new website and will send the link to the board members for review. He is trying to go live with the website by July 25th.

Mr. Barthel moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:39 pm, seconded by Mr. N. Hebert. The motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Chris Lapeyre, Vice-President

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Mrs. Dawn Henry  
Minute Clerk