***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – September 19, 2017

Attendees:

Justin Benfield, Stan Bryson, Jon Caime, Mayor John Carter, Jeff Field, Randy Garrett, Chris Lipp, Randy Lis, Amanda Munyan, David O’Shields, David Pitts, Rodney Smith, Dale Satterfield, Steve West, and Collie Lehn

Guests:

Fran Wiley (Piedmont Tech), Matt Dean (USC Union), Marc Metcaf (Upstate SC Alliance)

Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Sandy Cruickshanks

Press:

Billy Dunlap (goLaurens.com), John Clayton (Advertiser), Vic MacDonald (Chronicle)

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 12:00 and gave the invocation.

*Minutes and Financials*

Chairman Field asked the Board for a motion to approve the meeting’s agenda. David Pitts made the motion to approve and Randy Garrett seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman Field then asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/25/17 meeting. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and David Pitts seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Lynn Finley provided a recap of expenses for July and August 2017. The financials were accepted as information only.

*Executive Director’s Report – Jonathan Coleman*

* YTD activity: 46 RFIs, not able to submit on 12 due to need of existing building
* The City of Clinton is working toward building another spec building as well as the Laurens CPW in Hunter Industrial Park.
* Attended SCEDA quarterly membership meeting in August. Upstate Alliance hosted a reception afterwards with SC DOC project managers.
* During the last week of September, the Upstate Alliance will be hosting an inbound site selection group of about 10 site selection consultants. They will be touring 3 different facilities – GE, Colgate, and ZF. We’ll have them in Laurens County for a few hours on that Friday.
* Everyone has a copy of the Intelligence Report magazine
* In August partnered with the Chamber to host a meet and greet for Senator Lindsey Graham at Laurens City Hall.
* The next Business & Education Partnership meeting is planned for September 20.
* Manufacturing Day is October 6 – several local companies have committed to host students.
* Marketing position ad running in the papers
* Beginning the 2018 budget process and will make available for vote at the November meeting
* Public announcement was made last week that Chicago Bridge & Iron is closing. This will have an impact on approximately 250 employees. The LCDC will do all it can to work with CB&I to assist those displaced to find other opportunities.
* Filming wrapped up in early September for the workforce development video. Hope to have a finished product in late fall. The focus is on interviews with young people already working in manufacturing careers and perceptions of high school students. The video will be used with middle and high school students and parents to promote the positive opportunities in Laurens County.

*Annual Meeting – Jonathan Coleman*

We are planning for the annual meeting to be on January 18 and will be held at Musgrove Mill. Dr. Bruce Yandle, Dean Emeritus of Clemson University's College of Business and Behavioral Science and Alumni Distinguished Professor of Economics Emeritus at Clemson, has been secured to be the speaker.

*SC Retirement System – Jeff Field*

Chairman Field shared that the LCDC has applied and received preliminary approval to be a member of the State Retirement System. The staff is already a member of the State Retirement System and State Health Plan but are members through a reimbursement agreement with Laurens County. To help relieve that responsibility that arrangement has created at the County and to better serve the employees and provide more transparency on how funds are utilized, the Executive Committee has met and approved to recommend to this board that we take all the necessary steps to formally apply and enroll in both the State Retirement System and the State Health System as a stand-alone individual entity. If approved, this is a seamless transition for the employees with no change in benefits. This process requires to first approve a resolution stating this intention to become effective January 1, 2018. Chairman Field stated that even though this is coming as a recommendation from the Executive Committee he would like to have a motion and a second from the full board. Stan Bryson made the motion to approve and David Pitts seconded the motion. With no further discussion or questions the Board unanimously approved the motion.

*SC PEBA Health Plan – Jeff Field*

Chairman Field stated that if approved and as members of the State Retirement System the LCDC has to be members of the State PEBA Health Plan. No resolution is required for that but will need a record in the minutes that it was approved by the board. We also need a motion to approve that we enroll in the State Health Plan. David Pitts made the motion to approve and Steve West seconded the motion. With no further discussion or questions the Board unanimously approved the motion.

*Laurens County Future Scholarship – Fran Wiley, PTC & Matt Dean, USCU*

Fran Wiley and Matt Dean provided an informative presentation on the Laurens County Future Scholarship. Both Piedmont Tech and USC Union – Laurens Campus students benefit from the scholarship funds. This is a gap scholarship and started in the fall of 2015 to support workforce development. Laurens County was the first in the area to offer and similar programs are becoming more popular with all the surrounding counties. The number of students funded for PTC is 132. The average GPA of these students at PTC is 2.85 with a retention rate of 74%. They are seeing a steady increase on the number of students applying to attend. For Fall 2017, total cost is $34,478 with the average per student at $831. USC Union is seeing similar data on their students. The number of students funded at USC Union – Laurens Campus is 14 with the average GPA at 3.14. The total cost for Fall 2017 is $8,178 with the average per funded student at $1,168.29.

*Other Reports:*

None

*Executive Session:*

None

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley