

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

The Highlands County Industrial Development Authority Board of Directors meeting was held at the Lake Placid Town Hall, 1069 US Hwy 27 N, Lake Placid, Florida 33852, on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Chair, Janet Barber, presided over the meeting; a quorum was present.

**1. CALL TO ORDER – HIGHLANDS COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IDA)**

The September 9, 2020, Industrial Development Authority Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Janet Barber	Chair	IDA/EDC Executive Committee	Yes
Ray Royce	Vice Chair	IDA/EDC Executive Committee	Yes
Carol Howard	Past Chair	IDA/EDC Executive Committee	No
Wade Taveniere	Secretary/Treasurer	IDA/EDC Executive Committee	Yes
Donna Doubleday	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Yes
Paul Koukos	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Yes
Thomas Leitzel	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	No
John Shoop	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Yes
John Varady	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Yes
Craig Johnson	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	No
Jim Renfro	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Yes
Jason Kimbrell	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	No
Randy Surber	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Yes
Will Lenihan	Director	IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Yes
James Brooks	Commissioner, Liaison	Highlands County BOCC	Yes
Leah Sauls	Dev. Services Director	Highlands County BOCC	Yes
Meghan DiGiacomo	Exec. Manager of Business & Economic Development	Highlands County BOCC	Yes
Jeff King	Economic Development Manager	Highlands County BOCC	Yes
Rachel Barry	Zoning Supervisor	Highlands County BOCC	Yes
Angie Rodriguez	Zoning Specialist	Highlands County BOCC	Yes

*Table 1: Meeting Attendance*

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**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda, which included the June 10, 2020, meeting minutes, was presented for consideration. John Shoop moved to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Randy Surber. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Meghan DiGiacomo reviewed applications submitted for member re-appointments, as well as an application for new appointment for Roland Bishop. Ray Royce moved to approve all 7 reappointments, as well as appointing Roland Bishop to the Board; seconded by Wade Taveniere. Motion carried unanimously. Ray Royce inquired as to whether a letter will be sent to the Board of County Commissioners reflecting unanimous support of reappointing Mr. Shoop; Meghan confirmed, and read the letter into record.
- B. Meghan DiGiacomo gave an update on the industrial revenue bond process. COVID has slowed things down quite a bit, and they are not wanting to sell the building right now. John Shoop stated the City of Sebring has not received any notable updates either. Jeff King mentioned an article in the Wall Street Journal noting that senior facility development defaults are 3 times higher than normal.
- C. Meghan DiGiacomo gave an overview of the Tax Exemption Program. In 2010, the local voters approved the Tax Abatement Program, but it is set to expire after 10 years. Wade Taveniere, James Brooks, Ray Royce, and Paul Koukos spoke on their concerns regarding educating the public beforehand to curb rumors. Meghan asked the Board what direction they would like to take; Ray Royce said he would like for the Board to go on record showing unanimous support of the Resolution and the Program. Ray Royce made a motion to support the Tax Abatement Program; seconded by John Shoop. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The September 9, 2020, Industrial Development Authority Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 8:13 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7:30 a.m.  
Jack Stroup Civic Center  
355 W Center Ave.  
Sebring, FL 33870

Minutes Submitted By: Rachel Barry, Zoning Supervisor

Approval Date: December 9, 2020