

**WEST POINT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES
March 18th, 2014**

I. Call to Order

Jack Lawson stated that there was not a voting quorum present to hold a meeting, however, several members of Virginia Natural Gas was present to discuss the current status of installing the Natural Gas Lines in West Point. Mr. Lawson proceeded with an informal meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room located in Town Hall, 329 6th Street, West Point, Virginia.

Members Present: Jack Lawson, Chairman
Paul Kelley
Bernard Lee
Bub Shreaves

Members Absent: Debbie Brockwell
Carol Cunningham
Lisa Graham

Also Present: John B. Edwards, Town Manager
Karen Barrow, Town Clerk
Greg Kelly, Economic Development Coordinator

II. Review of Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

III. Adoption of Minutes

A. September 17th 2013

There was not a voting quorum present to adopt the minutes.

IV. Financial Report

There was not a voting quorum present to adopt the financial report.

V. Virginia Natural Gas Presentation

George Faatz, Director of External Affairs for Virginia Natural Gas introduced Lorraine Miller, Account Executive, Marcie Calhoun, Account Executive; Donald Knight, Project Manager and Gary Mormal, New Business Development Manager, as representatives for Virginia Natural Gas.

Gary Mormel advised that both the Schools and RockTenn have converted to Virginia Natural Gas and that some town residents living within a certain distance to the gas lines have converted to natural gas. Currently the gas line is being installed south down Main Street to Vincent's Funeral Home. The installation of gas lines will be done in phases as a request is made by the public and the installation can be justified.

Donald Knight advised that Loraine Miller and Marcie Calhoun will be working with inquiries from businesses and residents in Town, they will be able to provide comparisons on the cost to heat a home or business with Natural Gas. We do have handouts available that show the comparisons for heat with Natural Gas, Propane and Electric.

Paul Kelley suggested that Virginia Natural Gas contact the Tidewater Review to see if they would be willing to do an article on the benefits and savings of installing Natural Gas.

Bernard Lee advised that there are some new housing developments on Thompson Avenue, would Natural Gas be willing to extend a gas line to the new housing developments.

Donald Knight asked if they can leave some information and business cards for any inquires the Town might receive from the public.

Jack Lawson suggested that Virginia Natural Gas contact some of the civic groups in town like the Rotary and the Knights of Columbus etc. to give a presentation on the benefits of Virginia Natural Gas.

Mr. Edwards advised yes that the Town would post some information at Town Hall.

VI. Economic Development Update

Greg Kelly, the Economic Development Coordinator gave an overview of 2013: 1) The town continued to work with VDOT on the grant. VDOT extended the deadline on the grant by about 24 months to give the town more time to find a qualified tenant: 2) Working with VDEP to maintain the Town's relationship with the State to continue marketing the town: 3) Worked with 'Four on the Shore'. The partnership is not interested in developing the property with the current economic conditions and would like to sell the property but are not actively looking for a buyer: 4) Working with Virginia Natural Gas to convert some businesses downtown and to extend some gas lines to residential homes: 5) Working with VPPSA to locate at the Industrial Park: 6) Assisting RockTenn with their 100th anniversary for producing paper in West Point on May 17th 2014:

VII. Old Business

There was nothing to report.

VIII. New Business.

There was nothing to report.

IX. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 17th 2014.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Edwards advised there was not a quorum available to conduct a meeting, the next scheduled meeting will be June 17th 2014. I will call a meeting if any activity occurs that requires action before the June 17th meeting.

Approved _____ / _____ / _____

Jack Lawson, Chairman
West Point Economic
Development Authority

Members Terms

Debbie Brockwell, Treasurer	843-2485	9/30/17
Carol Cunningham,	843-7399	9/30/17
Lisa Graham	843-3441	9/30/16
Paul Kelley, Vice Chairman	314-2120	9/30/14
Jack Lawson, Chairman	514-5150	9/30/16
W. Bernard Lee, Secretary	381-9868	9/30/14
Bub Shreaves	843-3080	9/30/16