**CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA**

**4:00 pm**

## **January 16, 2013**

**Present**: Matt Welch, Greg Clary, Grady Williams (Counsel/Interim Executive Director),

Chip Dobson, Tom Morris, Virginia Hall, Jan Conrad

**Absent:** Paz Patel, Debbie Ricks, Bill Randall, Joe Mobley

**Staff:** Kellie Collins, Bill Garrison, Doug Conkey

**Guest:** Jeff Hopkins (Big League Dreams), Sam Garrison (BLD Attorney)

**Call to Order:** Chairman Matt Welch called the Clay County Development Authority (“CCDA”) Board meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**Invocation:** Greg Clary

**Approval of Minutes:** Virginia Hall moved to approve the minutes of the December 12th meeting. Chip Dobson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Chip Dobson asked for the board to review last month’s finance report and has asked the board for approval. Virginia Hall made a motion to approve the finance reports for December. Greg Clary seconded, the motion carried unanimously. Grady Williams reported we have two CD’s that are maturing, and with the board’s approval he will get with staff and get those reinvested and check with local vendors on favorable rates.

**Attorney’s Report:** Grady Williams asked the board to review the summary report he submitted in the board packet. He reported that Chair Matt Welch had asked him to contact prospective committee members and committee chair for a new committee. Virginia Hall has agreed to serve as Chair of the Sustainability and Vision Committee. Greg Clary, Chip Dobson, and Paz Patel have agreed to serve as members of the committee. Grady Williams discussed micro-lending opportunities and gave examples of ideas on how the board can generate income. The appointed committee will continue discussion and report back to the board. Grady reported Chair Matt Welch may be out for the next board meeting and Debbie Ricks has agreed to serve in his place in her capacity as Vice Chair, if needed. Also, at the board’s expense, he will be attending a 10-hour introduction to public bond financing webinar at the end of the month. The only cost to the board will be the tuition, as no travel or lodging is involved, and he will not separately charge CCDA for his time spent in attending the webinar.

1. **Big League Dreams:** BLD Committee Chair Greg Clary introduced Mr. Jeff Hopkins from Big League Dreams and his attorney Sam Garrison. Jeff Hopkins thanked the board for everything they have been doing and they look forward to working with the board. The BLD committee met with and received presentations from two firms as prospects to perform the Economic Impact Study prior to the board meeting. After much discussion, the committee voted unanimously to select Infinity Global Solutions, LLC (“IGS”) to perform the Economic Impact Study, which was passed on to the board by Mr. Clary as a committee recommendation. In IGS’ proposal, the contract amount is $30,000, and IGS requires a 50% deposit and anticipate completing their project within 60 days. The County has agreed to pay for one-half the cost, up to $15,000, for the study. The board discussed the study and the BLD project with our guests. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve IGS to perform the Economic Impact study. Greg Clary also reported that he has met with our new State Representative, Travis Cummings, who met with BLD and who has agreed to be in charge of the state PR, politics, funding ideas in moving forward on the project. Matt Welch asked the committee to continue moving forward on the Big League Dreams Project.
2. **Economic Sustainability:** Virginia Hall confirmed the membership of the new committee and asked to set the first committee meeting prior to our next CCDA board meeting, at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20th. Kellie Collins will send out a public meeting notice to the press. Ms. Hall asked for guidance from the Chair on what he would like this committee to review. This committee will review the CCDA’s vision and looking forward what are our goals and how we could generate funds. Virginia Hall thanked the new committee members for agreeing to serve.
3. **Economic Development Report:** Matt Welch reported that he and Grady Williams had met with Jerry Agresti and Bill Garrison about the new structure of Economic Development. Mr. Agresti had explained CCDA’s investment and how the money is being spent. Mr. Agresti will look into the percentage of staff and what we are paying for, and what it would be if we hired a staff member. Mr. Agresti explained that the balance of CCDA’s payment, over and above the cost of staff provided, is a pure investment to Economic Development. They discussed CCDA’s investment and how Choose Clay is moving forward. Mr. Agresti did ask CCDA to continue on this year at our full investment, and that he would expect that would be a declining investment moving forward. Grady Williams said that what the new Economic Development board, Choose Clay, is trying to do is very challenging, and it needs our and the public’s support and encouragement. Mr. Williams also stated that ultimately, CCDA’s own role is to serve as the governmental entity aside from and in addition to the County, itself, to provide the public finance and bonding capabilities, facilitate and administer public grants, facilitate and enter into public/private partnerships, and to obtain state and federal infrastructure funding for use in Clay County. Mr. Garrison said that his focus is to increase investor partnerships; we are targeting businesses that will benefit the most. We are going previous investors who have backed out of their investment due to frustration, and we are building a business plan for Economic Development. He is continuing his education in participating in conferences for Economic Development, requesting for new grant money and looking into micro-lending and looking at having a new industrial park like Harbor Road. The Choose Clay board is making a request to the County to increase their investment; right now they pay $50,000 for the JAXUSA partnership. He is working with Enterprise Florida and going to be meeting them next month. Mr. Garrison reported that not a lot was going on with regard to prospect projects, but that he does have one current prospect and is working on some follow ups.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 20, 2103, at 4:00 PM, at the Clay County Development Authority Building; Economic Sustainability Committee will be meeting at 2:30 p.m. on the same date.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM