

**Cumberland Empowerment Zone Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, July 17, 2017 12:30 PM
Cumberland County Improvement Authority, 2 North High Street
Millville, NJ 08332**

Present: Don Ayres, Freeholder Darlene Barber, Ed Bethea, Rita Danna, Jeannine MacDonald, Susan Martine, Freeholder James Quinn, Dante Rieti, Arnold Robinson, Mayor Michael Santiago and Wade Sjogren

Absent: Mayor Anthony Fanucci, Carol Hickman, Mayor Albert Kelly, Shelly Schneider, and Mayor Ron Sutton

Newspapers: None

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms Barber called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

MEETING NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Meeting notice was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

In accordance with the new IRS requirements, members were asked to make known any conflict of interest for agenda items. Mr. Bethea noted a conflict with 9a River Grove and 9c Wells Fargo.

ROLL CALL

Ms MacDonald took roll. Mr. Fanucci was called to an emergency meeting. Mr. Kelly is in Washington. Ms Hickman, Ms Schneider and Mr. Sutton had meeting conflicts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –JUNE 5, 2017

Mr. Bethea made the motion to dispense with the reading of the June 5, 2017 Open Session minutes and approve as written. Mr. Quinn seconded. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion with the exception of Mr. Sjogren who abstained.

Mr. Bethea made the motion to dispense with the reading of the June 5, 2017 Closed Executive Session minutes and approve as written. Mr. Quinn seconded. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion with the exception of Mr. Sjogren who abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into closed executive session to discuss contractual negotiations and staffing was made by Mr. Quinn and seconded by Mr. Rieti. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion to adjourn closed executive session was made by Mr. Ayres and seconded by Mr. Quinn. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion.

APPLICATIONS*NJ ETHANOL - BRIDGETON*

The applicant has a facility in Bridgeton. They are shifting from producing fuel ethanol to pharmaceutical ethanol. They are also looking to be a terminal for the receiving/distribution of fuel ethanol. Upgrades are needed including repair to the train tracks located near the facility. The land is owned by the City of Bridgeton and the applicant is going to invest \$216k for the repairs. They are seeking a loan of \$144k. Staff recommends the loan at 5% for 10 years from Bridgeton's second generation fund. A motion was made by Mr. Sjogren and seconded by Mr. Bethea to approve the loan as recommended by staff. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion.

2017 OPERATIONS*RFP ONE STOP CENTER COORDINATOR*

CEZC submitted a proposal to the county's RFP which was accepted. The contract from the CWIB was included in the board packet. A motion to accept the contract and authorize the executive director to move forward with it was made by Mr. Bethea and Mr. Rieti. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion with the exception of Ms Barber and Mr. Quinn who abstained.

PROJECTS/PROGRAMS*RIVER GROVE*

Meetings were held with local legislators to gather support. A determination on the 9% tax credit should be made by the end of July.

FOOD INDUSTRY SPECIALIZATION CENTER

An SPE has been created for this project. The details are being worked on and will follow.

WELLS FARGO SOUTHEAST GATEWAY RECEPTION

Ms MacDonald attended the initial reception which was well received and attended.

MILLVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

Ms MacDonald is on the advisory committee which held their first meeting. They will look into a grant from Wells Fargo. Many good projects are happening with this program.

21ST CCLC PROGRAM

The county has extended the HSAC grant for an additional six months totally \$36,000. A motion to accept the funds was made by Mr. Ayres and seconded by Mr. Rieti. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion with the exception of Ms Barber and Mr. Quinn who abstained.

The United Way grant was extended to \$17,000 for the year. A motion to accept the funds was made by Mr. Bethea and seconded by Mr. Quinn. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion.

NUEVA VIDA

This was a loan for a mental health facility in Vineland based on their Camden facility. The loan has been in default and several of the key individuals recently pleaded guilty to Medicaid fraud. The City of Vineland has already begun proceedings for payment. CEZ would like to do the same. A motion to proceed with legal proceedings for was made by Mr. Sjogren and seconded by Ms Martine. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion.

BUDGET REVIEW/PAYMENT OF BILLS*BUDGET REVIEW*

Budget information for May and June 2017 was included in the board packet.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion to ratify the July 3, 2017 Payment of Bills was made by Mr. Quinn and second

by Mr. Rieti. Roll call was taken and all voted to approve the motion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This was included in the board packet.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms MacDonald received the application for the 2018 Leadership Cumberland County Class. If anyone is interested, please contact her.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was none at this time.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Bethea to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Rieti. All approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.