

**Iberia Economic Development Authority  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 31, 2020**

Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority  
met on Monday – August 31, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. at  
101 Burke Street, New Iberia, LA 70560

Commissioner Roy Pontiff called the meeting to order and called for the roll.

Members Present: Roy Pontiff, Fran Henderson, Jody Suire, Damon Migues

Members Absent: Cecil Hymel

Others Present: Michael Tarantino, Evelyn Ducote, Jeff Simon, Matt Landry, Matt Durham, Damon Hanks, Tommy Ducharme, Chris Disher, Parish President Larry Richard (via teleconference).

Public Comments: Mr. Chris Disher with Cajun Broadband introduced himself and his company, and said he wanted to let the Commissioners know that his company was interested in talking with the IEDA about supplying broadband services to Progress Point when the time was appropriate. Mr. Pontiff thanked him for coming and said that we would let him know when we were ready to discuss broadband services to the park.

Mr. Pontiff asked the Commissioners to review the minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting. On a motion by Damon Migues, seconded by Fran Henderson, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Pontiff asked the Commissioners to review the financials for the month of July, 2020. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Migues, the financials were approved unanimously.

Mr. Suire asked for an update from the Progress Point working group. Mr. Pontiff noted the group had had a meeting two weeks ago and were provided a lot of information from the staff regarding the development of Progress Point thus far. He noted the group was in the process of reviewing all the information. Mr. Suire stated that the staff was in the process of putting together an informational package, and the group would be meeting again in the near future to review the documentation. He said that the group would have a preliminary report for the IEDA Commissioners to review at the next meeting.

Mr. Tarantino reported that at the first working group meeting, representatives from Beta Land Services had talked with the group about obtaining an underground servitude through land the Authority owns for a drilling and production project they represent. Mr. Damon Hanks with Beta Land Services stated that nothing related with the project would be visible above ground. Mr. Ducharme noted that the state standard payment for this kind of servitude was \$1,000, and asked about the process of presenting a proposal to the Authority for their consideration. Mr. Simon reviewed the process the Authority would have to follow to accept a proposal from Beta. After discussion, Mr. Hanks said he would draft a proposal for the Authority to consider as soon as possible.

Matt Landry with Berard Habetz Engineering provided an update on the sewer line construction to Progress Point. He reported that the preliminary design was complete, and he was currently working on getting crop damage and right-of-way away costs. He stated that he would have a report for the Authority after all the costs are received.

Matt Durham with LAWCO reported that as a result of last month's discussion regarding the cost of crop damage payments for the original routing of the water line to the business park, LAWCO looked at routing the line in a slightly different direction than the original route. The new route (Route #2) would run the water line on the North side of Hwy. 3212, as opposed to the original proposed route that was along the south side of the highway (Route #1). He noted that Route #2 would run along more public owned property, and the crop damage payments were significantly less than Route #1.

A motion to expand the agenda to receive LAWCO's proposal on the new water line route was offered by Fran Henderson, seconded by Roy Pontiff, and passed unanimously. The agenda was thereby expanded.

Matt Durham noted that running the new water line to the North of Hwy 3212 would include running 6200 linear feet of pipe, an amount less than the original estimated amount, thereby reducing the cost some from the original cost estimates. He also reported that the cost of crop the damage payment would be \$12,000, significantly less than running the water line on the South side of the highway. A motion to approve LAWCO's Route #2, along the North side of Hwy. 3212, as the route for the new water line to Progress Point was offered by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Fran Henderson. Mr. Pontiff, Ms. Henderson and Mr. Suire voted yes and Mr. Migues abstained. The motion passed. Mr. Richard noted that LAWCO needed to get with all public entities affected along the route to discuss the project. Mr. Tarantino stated that he will work with LAWCO in getting on the appropriate meeting agendas.

Mr. Suire asked Mr. Tarantino to proceed with his business park funding and economic development updates. Mr. Tarantino reported the following:

1) Reported that the Parish's Airport Access Road project was moving forward, and he was working with Parish Government on a groundbreaking ceremony for the start of the project. Noted it was scheduled to be a 550 calendar-day project. He further reported that construction of the state's new Hwy. 675 roundabout should be the next roadway project to be starting soon in the area of the business park. 2) Noted he was working with several agencies on the development of feasibility studies for future projects that can be located at Progress Point.

Mr. Tarantino continued with his economic development update. Reviewed the current economic indicators, noting local retail sales were generally still good, given the circumstances. Noted the sales figures seemed to show that people were shopping more locally instead of going to Lafayette to shop.

Mr. Tarantino also announced that the Iberia Development Foundation was holding a face mask donation drive to have masks donated for the school children of Iberia Parish. When school starts in September, students will be required to wear face masks, and the IDF has partnered with the school system to try to have as many masks donated as possible to help each student to have at least two cloth masks. Donations can be dropped off at the IDF.

On a motion by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Fran Henderson, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the IDF Offices.