

**Iberia Economic Development Authority**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.**  
Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority  
101 Burke Street, in New Iberia, LA 70560

Chad Courtois called the meeting to order, then called for the roll.

Members Present: Chad Courtois, Cecil Hymel, Roy Pontiff, Jody Suire

Members Absent: John Bellefontaine,

Others Present: Michael Tarantino, Evelyn Ducote, Jeff Simon, Matt Landry, Larry Richard

Mr. Courtois asked for any public comments. Being none, Mr. Courtois asked the commissioners to review the minutes of the February 28, 2019 meeting. On a motion by Jody Suire, seconded by Roy Pontiff, the minutes were unanimously approved. He then asked the commissioners to review the February, 2019 financials. On a motion by Jody Suire, seconded by Cecil Hymel, the February, 2019 financials were unanimously approved.

Mr. Courtois asked the commissioners to refer to Agenda item number six concerning an update on the Seritage project and approval of disbursements. Mr. Simon reviewed the agreement the IEDA had approved last year, and said all the documents required by the resolution passed last year have been signed. On a motion by Jody Suire, seconded by Roy Pontiff, and approved unanimously, the Commissioners approved the disbursement of closing costs and rental payment.

Mr. Courtois asked everyone to refer to agenda item number 7, which was to discuss and consider entering into a contract for engineering services with Matt Landry with Berard, Habetz relative to the development of Progress Point. Mr. Tarantino said that he was pleased to report that the Iberia Parish Council had approved some local matching funds for Capital Outlay for the development of the park. He thanked the entire Parish Council, especially Parish President Larry Richard, Councilmen Paul Landry and Ricky Gonsoulin for their guidance, and for using TIF funds for investment in economic development infrastructure. He also thanked Parish President Richard for recommending TIF funds for economic development infrastructure. Mr. Landry reviewed his rate schedule with the Commissioners and said he would discount those rates by 9% to match what they charge the Parish for their services. Mr. Hymel thanked him for the rate reduction. On a motion by Cecil Hymel, seconded by Jody Suire and unanimously approved, the Commissioners approved retaining Matt Landry for engineering services and authorized the Chairman to sign a contract for those services after legal review.

Mr. Courtois referred everyone to agenda item eight and asked Mr. Tarantino to give his update on Progress Point development and funding. Mr. Tarantino reviewed the Capital Outlay process and emphasized the need to start project activity. He reported we were waiting for updated estimated on the cost or running water and sewer lines to the park area. He said as soon as we get the numbers we would forward them to the Commissioners. Jeff Simon noted that Commissioner Jody Suire should recuse himself from any discussions regarding choosing a water provider and all agreed.

Mr. Tarantino reported that the Rouses grand opening was very well attended, and the whole community is very happy they have opened a location in New Iberia. Noted our unemployment rate was around 5%, and there are 800-900 jobs available currently in the parish. Noted there is a great need for skilled workers. Reported the Port of Iberia is very busy and is doing great.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Jody Suire and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:30 AM.