

FINAL MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2006, SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 28TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2006,
AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE MCEDA CONFERENCE ROOM
OF THE 1855 COURTHOUSE IN CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

The special meeting of the Madison County Economic Development Authority was conducted on the 28th day of November, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. in the 1855 Courthouse in the City of Canton.

Members Present: John Almond, Chip Estes, Barbara Gray
Deborah Martin and Thomas Johnson. Also
present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Mitch Stringer and
Attorney Leslie Scott.

Guests: Cory Winder, Elizabeth Raley, Andrew Ujifusi and Charles
Williford

At 8:30 a.m., Chairman Estes announced that the members present constituted a quorum and declared the special meeting duly convened and directed that the notice for the special meeting be filed with the minutes.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. After a second by Mr. Almond, the agenda was unanimously adopted.

The MCEDA Board members decided that the lobbyist issue is an open discussion. Mr. Estes wanted to clarify that there was no rush in securing a lobbyist.

Ms. Gray stated that she received several questions about the lobbyist issue.

Mr. Coursey stated that he visited the Madison County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 20, 2006. He addressed the Board of Supervisors with the following message from the November 15 MCEDA Board meeting, "MCEDA is receptive to the suggestion of exploring a lobbyist for Madison County that would handle Federal and State issues with the cost being split between MCEDA and the Madison County Board of Supervisors."

Mr. Johnson stated that he would recommend that the Madison County Foundation remain in its current position as lobbyist for MCEDA.

Ms. Raley stated that she does not see a problem with MCEDA. The Madison County Foundation feels like they are partners with MCEDA and their lobbying efforts and needs.

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Mr. Coursey stated that the current exploration of a lobbyist is to fulfill the need for projects that do not fall in the realm of the Foundation's lobbying. Mr. Coursey posed the question "How do we go after those smaller amounts of money that seem to be depleting our Construction fund?"

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Raley if the Foundation was willing to work on and lobby for the smaller projects for MCEDEA and stated further that he thought it was the will of the MCEDEA Board that MCEDEA move towards the Foundation for fulfillment of their lobbying needs, large or small, State or Federal. The Foundation should be approachable regardless of the issue.

Ms. Raley stated that on a state level the Foundation has limited involvement. They are actively involved in the things that will affect the whole county.

Mr. Estes asked if the Foundation is registered as a lobbyist at a State and Federal level. Ms. Raley's response was no.

Ms. Martin made a motion that Mr. Coursey will approach the Madison County Foundation with the lobbying needs of MCEDEA, regardless of size. If the Foundation is unable to take care of MCEDEA's needs, Mr. Coursey will then come back to the MCEDEA Board at that time for further direction. After a second by Ms. Gray the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Martin stated that the key to the success of this is Mr. Coursey feeling comfortable to report back to the Board whether things are working or not. Mr. Estes suggested that the MCEDEA board identify which issues they have and get them to Mr. Coursey so that he can put them in order of importance. These issues will be discussed at the December meeting.

It was suggested that MCEDEA and the Board of Supervisors might benefit from hiring a grant writer.

There was a motion and second to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session to address potential land sales. There was then a discussion of the motion which then passed unanimously. Chairman Estes then closed the meeting for a determination of whether to go into Executive Session. There was a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Ms. Gray to go into Executive Session to discuss potential land sales and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Estes then convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

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At the conclusion of Executive Session, the Board voted to return to open session at which time it was announced that in Executive Session the Board had voted to not exercise its right to buy back certain Sixteenth Section property currently leased to First Choice Medical and to complete the work necessary to construct the road bed to provide access to this property. In action, it was announced that the Board voted to direct Mr. Coursey to offer Covington property for construction of a new maintenance facility by the National Guard, for sale, with CMU being responsible for the water and sewer services at that location.

At 10:15 a.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Martin and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

Bryan "Chip" Estes, Chairman

ATTEST:

Deborah Martin, Secretary-Treasurer