

# FRANKLIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Lake Royale Club House

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome – Shane Mitchell
- II. Review/Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2008 Meeting – Shane Mitchell
- III. Legislative Update – Senator Doug Berger/Representative Lucy Allen
- IV. Appointment of Committee to Elect Officers – Shane Mitchell
- V. Appointment of Committee to Redesign Franklin County Snapshot – Shane Mitchell
- VI. Economic Development Activity Update – Ronnie Goswick  
\*BOCC Update 4/21/08
- VII. Existing Industries Update – Richie Duncan
- VIII. Company Visits Update – Mark McArn, Stephen Barrington
- IX. Triangle North Franklin Update – Don Lancaster
- X. Shell Building Update – Mike Leonard
- XI. Other Business – Shane Mitchell  
\*set next meeting date
- XII. Adjourn – Shane Mitchell

# FRANKLIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**May 8, 2008**

## Minutes

The Franklin County Economic Development Commission was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Shane Mitchell on May 8, 2008 at the Lake Royale Club House.

In attendance were Chairman Shane Mitchell, Commissioners: Joyce Cooke, Lyn Buffaloe (County Commissioner), Bryce Mendenhall (Public Utilities Director), Mark McArn, Marsha Strawbridge (Mayor of Bunn), Don Lancaster (County Commissioner), Bobbie Jo May, Pat Young (Planning & Inspections Director), and Brenda Robbins (Administrator, Town of Youngsville). Also, in attendance were Ronnie Goswick-Economic Development Director, Richie Duncan-Existing Industry Coordinator, Lori Duke-Admin. Support Specialist, Gary Cunard (The Franklin Times), and Chuck Stires (Candidate-NC Senate). Absent from the meeting were Commissioners: Mike Leonard, Leelan Woodlief, Mayor Karl Pernell (Mayor of Louisburg), John Barnes (Franklin County Chamber, Chairman), Lucy Allen (NC Representative), Elic Senter (Mayor of Franklinton), Angela Harris (Interim County Manager), Doug Berger (NC Senator), and Margaret Nelms (Mayor of Centerville).

Next, Chairman Mitchell asked the Board to review the minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to approve the minutes, with Commissioner Robbins seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was deferred until next month's meeting due to the fact that neither Representative Allen nor Senator Berger were able to attend today's meeting.

The fourth item on the agenda was the appointment of a committee for the election of officers. Chairman Mitchell appointed Commissioners Lyn Buffaloe, Brenda Robbins and Bobbie Jo May to work with Ronnie Goswick to provide a list of nominations to be presented at our next meeting.

The fifth item on the agenda was the appointment of a marketing committee to redesign the Franklin County snapshot. Chairman Mitchell appointed Commissioners Mark McArn, Bobbie Jo May and Joyce Cooke to work with Richie Duncan on this.

The sixth item on the agenda was an update on economic development activity given by Ronnie Goswick. Mr. Goswick showed the EDC Board a Powerpoint presentation, which was presented to the County Commissioners at their meeting on April 21, 2008. This update will

be given to the County Commissioners at the second meeting of each quarter, and will be presented to the EDC Board following its presentation to the County Commissioners.

The presentation gives an update on the following:

- overview of activity for new industries, existing industries and expansions
- new jobs and job losses
- economic trends
- Flextronics update
- Triangle North Franklin and Triangle North update
- companies with headquarters in Franklin County
- update on grants
- communications update
- proactive solicitation of industry segments
- opportunities and challenges

Richie Duncan said that in reference to existing industry activity, there are nine (9) active projects (2 retail), and there have been five (5) expansions. Ms. Duncan noted that the launch of the new logo has been completed, which ties us closer to the Research Triangle. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Duncan made a presentation on Triangle North Franklin to seven (7) different funding resources at the “2008 Water & Waste Water Infrastructure Funding”, which was held at the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments in Rocky Mount. Unfortunately, we are unable to receive funding from any of these sources unless we already have jobs in place.

Commissioner Buffaloe noted that with the passing of the fifty-three million dollar school bond, he would like to make a motion that a letter be forwarded to the Franklin County School Board congratulating them, and to emphasize to them the importance that they move forward as quickly as possible with the construction of the new high school for Franklinton. Commissioner May seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell asked that the EDC office work on getting this letter sent out as soon as possible.

The seventh item on the agenda was an update on existing industries by Richie Duncan. Ms. Duncan said that she previously went over this agenda item in agenda item six (6), but she would like to inform the EDC Board about the upcoming “Fly-In, Cruiz-In and Young Eagles Rally” at the Franklin County Regional Airport, which is this Saturday. Last year, approximately 1,500 people attended the event, and 269 children were flown that day. Also, Ms. Duncan said the “5<sup>th</sup> Annual Franklin County Farm Foods & Crafts Tour” will be held on May 17-18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. If anyone would like further details, please visit the new Franklin County local food website at [www.franklincountyfarmfresh.com](http://www.franklincountyfarmfresh.com). Ms. Duncan said that the new “Business Information Form” has been copied and padded, and she would be giving these out to the individual towns, as well as to the Planning Dept.

The eighth item on the agenda was the company visits update given by Commissioner Mark McArn. This month, Commissioner McArn and Stephen Barrington visited with Jack Pyritz of Bobbees Bottling, which is located at 3959 Hwy. 39 S, Louisburg. Bobbees Bottling is located in a 25,000 sq. ft. building, and they are hoping to expand another 10,000 sq. ft. in the near future. Bobbees is a manufacturer co-packer, and they will take anyone's recipe(s) and cook from 75 gallons up to a million gallons and then bottle and package it. They have been in business since 1987, and have 18 full-time employees, with a total of 35 employees at peak times. When asked what Mr. Pyritz did not like about Franklin County, he said no benefits, no incentives, no training dollars and he believes he could get help from other counties if he chose to move his company elsewhere. Commissioner McArn said that Mr. Pyritz previously worked for Nomaco, which is considered a "big guy", but he now is a "small guy" and feels he is treated differently now. He says the County should focus on helping "small guys" grow into "big guys". Due to complaints that some neighbors reported, the Health Dept. came out to take a look at the sewer situation at Bobbees and soon realized that this was something the County could not handle, but that the State needed to be involved in. Currently, Bobbees is paying to have approximately 2,000 gallons per day of discharge hauled to a site in Granville County. Public Utilities Director, Bryce Mendenhall, said that the waste water treatment plant would accept Bobbees discharge. However, there would be a fee of \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons, which would be \$14.00 per day for Bobbees. Richie Duncan asked what can we do to show Mr. Pyritz that we are trying to help him and we want to help him. Commissioner Buffaloe suggested that different people visit with Mr. Pyritz to ascertain his needs, such as Commissioner Bobbie Jo May could possibly visit with him to discuss training needs that VGCC may offer.

The ninth item on the agenda was an update on Triangle North Franklin by Commissioner Lancaster. Commissioner Lancaster said that Mr. Goswick previously discussed this agenda item in his activity update, but he did want to add that we are talking with someone who is interested in purchasing two lots at Triangle North Franklin.

Next, in the absence of Commissioner Mike Leonard, Commissioner Lancaster gave an update on the shell building. Commissioner Lancaster said that as previously discussed by Mr. Goswick, the shell building is in the process of being landscaped and should be completed within the next 2-3 weeks.

In other business:

- Commissioner Robbins said that she was happy to announce that Anderson Park, the subdivision located on Nassau St. in Youngsville, just obtained two (2) zoning permits. The subdivision had sat dormant for a while, so this is good news.
- Commissioner Strawbridge said she appreciated everyone coming to the Bunn community to have this meeting. She said that grading is being done at the area where

the Food Lion is located for construction of a six (6) to nine (9) unit building, which will be used for retail.

- Commissioner McArn said that he had been working on a big project for a 300-acre subdivision, which was to be located on the Watson Farm property. This has been put on hold, and we are under contract with several developers on a 53-acre site located on the other side of Bert Winston Road, which is the Metromont site.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. Location to be determined.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.