

**PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2011**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jimmy B. Clayton  
Kyle W. Puryear  
B. Ray Jeffers  
Samuel R. Kennington  
Frances P. Blalock

Heidi York, County Manager  
C. Ronald Aycock, County Attorney  
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in special session on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Person County Office Building for the purpose to meet jointly with the Economic Development Commission (EDC).

Chairman Clayton called the meeting to order.

EDC voting members present were:

Phillip Allen, Jr. (Chairman)  
Ray Wilkins (Vice Chairman)  
Shady Terrell (Secretary)  
Sam Kennington

Kenneth Perry  
Jeff Fitzgerald  
Danny Talbert

EDC voting members absent were:

Randy Reynolds  
Sam Spencer

Randy King

Ex-Officio EDC members attending were:

Heidi York  
Tommy Warren (Interim City Manager)

Kyle Puryear  
Adrienne Duncan

Ex-Officio EDC members absent were:

Henry Daniel

Others Present:

Sandy Stigall, City Council  
Jim Stovall

Mr. Jim Stovall addressed the Board noting the county's vision through its 1989 Strategic Plan and the more recent Person Future's Strategic Plan. Mr. Stovall highlighted goals and achievements from both plans noting economic development has been at a crossroads for several years.

Mr. Stovall stated economic announcements related to 3 major retailers within the next 90 days, as well as small businesses and a solar park are forthcoming.

Mr. Stovall commented to the County Manager's PowerPoint presentation at the Board's October 17, 2011 meeting reiterating many times his recommendation for a full time economic development director and assistant in addition to an Assistant County Manager. Mr. Stovall suggested any proposed incentive policy remain simple without stringent constraints. Mr. Stovall told the Board he liked the proposed new Economic Development Commission (EDC) with the addition of more member representations and noted an idea to possibly combine with Representative Wilkins' current Round Table Committee to create a "think tank". Mr. Stovall agreed the current EDC could work as the new Person County Business Industrial Center (PCBIC) Board as the recruiting arm of the county with recommendation that in time to decrease the size to 5-7 members with no ex-officio members. Mr. Stovall told the Board he did not agree with a Committee of 100 as he felt volunteers would not pay to participate and it would not be successful. Mr. Stovall told the group that it is imperative for the Board to have 5-0 votes with economic development projects.

Mr. Stovall noted that all the counties represented in the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP) as well as the Council of Governments (COG) currently have full time Economic Directors and Administrative Assistants except Person County.

Mr. Gordon Phillip Allen, Jr., EDC Chairman commended Mr. Stovall for his years of service to Person County crediting new recruitment and existing industry expansion under his reign as the Economic Development Commission Chairman. Mr. Allen encouraged the Board to give the EDC the best opportunity to succeed by properly funding and staffing economic development.

EDC members appeared before the Board to pledge their support and offer the following comments:

Mr. Ray Wilkins, EDC Vice Chairman, told the Board that the Commerce Department encourages a spec building to recruit industry and encouraged the County and City officials to work together to create synergies noting his willingness to work with the Board to develop an economic development plan.

Mr. Danny Talbert, EDC member, asked the Board to invest in increasing businesses in Person County.

Mr. Kenneth Perry, EDC member, requested the Board to streamline the permitting and economic development process.

Ms. Shady Terrell, EDC Secretary, stated everyone was present for the betterment of the county.

Mr. Jeff Fitzgerald, EDC member, reiterated the need for full time people and funding.

Interim City Manager, Tommy Warren stated the City of Roxboro has always been willing to participate and will continue to help in any way.

Ms. Adrienne Duncan, ex-officio member on the EDC advocated for one stop shop for economic services with a Director that has the EDC vision and knowledge.

Chairman Clayton thanked Mr. Stovall and the EDC members for their comments and suggested the EDC group set a regular meeting schedule.

Vice Chairman Puryear stated full support of Mr. Stovall's comments and encouraged the Board to listen to the EDC members, put aside politics, open up discussion for dialogue and show leadership.

Commissioner Jeffers thanked Mr. Stovall noting he recently attended a meeting that included Governor Purdue and other Commerce Department staff noting NC has lost projects to other states due to incentives noting it was time for Person County to step it up.

Commissioner Blalock stated support of quality people and a plan for the new EDC.

Commissioner Kennington stated Person County has properly funded economic development in the past and will continue to place emphasis in the future. Commissioner Kennington recognized funding allocated to economic development noting \$3.2 million has been allocated in the current fiscal year 11-12, \$1.85 million in fiscal year 10-11 and \$1.3 million in fiscal year 09-10. Commissioner Kennington noted his preference for the Assistant County Manager position to retain responsibility for economic development.

Vice Chairman Puryear asked Mr. Stovall what the salary of a full time economic developer would range. Mr. Stovall stated a seasoned full time economic developer would earn \$70,000 to \$100,000 annually.

**RECESS:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Blalock, **seconded** by Vice Chairman Puryear, and **carried 5-0** to recess the meeting at 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

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Brenda B. Reaves  
Clerk to the Board

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Jimmy B. Clayton  
Chairman