

Town of Richlands
Industrial Development Authority
December 6th, 2022

The Richlands IDA held a regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P.M. with the following present:

Jan White	Joseph Vance
Craig Earls	Phillip Horton
Brandon Buskill	

Members Absent:

Town Staff present: John O’Daniel

Guests Speakers: Tal McBride, Seth White

Phillip Horton called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Joseph Vance advised we have a correction to the agenda date. Joseph Vance made a motion to approve agenda with adjustment. Craig Earls seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

The minutes from the November 22nd, 2022 meeting were presented with minor corrections. Joseph Vance made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

New Business:

Pop-up Richlands Update:

John O’Daniel advised that we have no drawdown requests this month.

IDA Openings:

John O’Daniel discussed that we have 3 positions open for the IDA and we have three names mentioned for replacements: Keenan Bowman, Brandon Keene and Seth White. Previously mentioned replacement Dillon Smith declined.

Craig Earls make a motion for John O’Daniel to take to the Town Council Kennan Bowman, Brandon Keene and Seth White for the IDA, Phillip Horton seconded. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Richlands Solar Ordinance Update:

Phillip Horton: I have been in contact with Travis Hackworth and Will Morefield for our projects and we need to ready with proposals to be presented to the governor. They will help us and we want the solar ordinance to be easy to implement and understand. The draft ordinance John sent is from Bedford, and it aligned with what Gary needed for inspections.

Craig Earls: One of the areas of concern for me is the limits for the 10kwh system for the expedited application process.

Joseph Vance: The group discussed and if we may have any insurance implications if we increased it over 10kw.

Jan White: Who is going to do the verifications and inspections?

John O'Daniel: Staff and building inspector will make sure they follow the codes.

The group discussed the kWh limits and applicable fees to for the applications process. The group discussed the impacts to an easy to understand implementation and application process.

John advised that some fees were in place for outside help for design reviews (for larger systems). We also discussed the need for the proper bidirectional meters.

Joseph Vance: If you live in an AEP served area is this a zoning issue?

John O'Daniel: Yes, applicants will need a conditional use permit.

Phillip Horton: We also discussed a potential co-op solar project and the Tal McBride informed us about the BARC in Covington which is 500kWh system that was oversold in 2 days. Solar is the cheapest power available. One of my goals is for the next 10 years to be energy independent. We have a lot of projects that can help us get to this goal. The solar is the least environment impacting and can get it faster.

Phillip Horton: Requested that Seth White give an update on the gas generation?

Seth White: We are looking at the potential for a 5 mega-watt gas generator. If we tap into the main line we can get gas from 3 different suppliers. So that will help us keep the gas costs down. We are looking at the estimates for what it will cost. The great thing about the project is we are in a unique position to help. We have ARPA funds that can help facilitate purchasing and generating our own electricity. We have a block of power that is expiring at the end of next year and we are getting a lot of pressure to sign a new deal. The group discussed the ordinance and changes we would like for the kWh specifics.

Craig Earls made a motion to adopt the interconnection details as a policy with following changes: Total of 300kWh to 750kWh for base load, and 20kWh max on the base system for expedited applications. Also, John O'Daniel is requested to look at the legal implications and implementing as a policy instead of ordinance, and ask legal guidance for any enforcement issues that may arise. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Phillip Horton: How can we work to start a project with solar. Group discussed and we do have the ability to put it directly on our grid.

Craig Earls: I think this should be presented back to the Richlands town council.

Craig Earls made a motion for Phillip Horton to go to the December town council meeting to present and recommend that the town consider a gas and solar generation facilities with energy storage, to reduce our electric rates and become energy independent. Buskill seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Phillip Horton: I recommend that we move the meeting to Mondays going forward. The group can discuss at the next meeting.

Old Business:

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Jan White seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Next Meeting January 2nd at 6:00 P.M.