



## Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Indian River State College – Chastain Campus – 2400 SE Salerno Rd, Stuart, FL 34997

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**Present:** Eric Kiehn, Tommy Bueno, Marshall Critchfield, Councilman Carmine Dipaolo, Patrick Gleason, Jeff Leslie, Mayor Troy McDonald, David Snyder, Ron Rose, Thomas Weber, Ed Weinberg  
**Absent:** Alex Anzalone, Reed Hartman, Susan Rabinowitz, Tom Whittington  
**Liaison:** Commissioner Harold Jenkins  
**Counsel:** Ken Norman  
**Staff:** Joan K. Goodrich, Ike Crumpler, Lynn Smith, Pierre Taschereau

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** Eric Kiehn, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 8:33 am. Following Board roll call, it was determined an in-person quorum was established.
2. **Public Comments:** None.
3. **Partner Comments:** None.
4. **Welcome New BDB Investor:** Brad Scannapieco and Donny Lu of Comcast Business were welcomed as a new Economic Champion Council level investor. They provided a brief company overview that also spoke about expansion plans in 10G, digital media and “epic” amusement experiences through the parent company.
5. **Briefing: Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** Stephanie Heidt, Economic Development and Intergovernmental Programs Director briefed the BDB on the TCRPC (covers Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties and its new 5-Year CEDS plan (visit [bdbmc.org](http://bdbmc.org)). Highlights include:
  - The rewrite of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is for the region and written by the region.
  - The plan features current region statistics, demographics, economic developments and plans, SWOT analysis, strategic framework, opportunities zones, action, economic resilience and recovery plans.
  - New regional projects added to the CEDS plan include the Indian River State College Advance Workforce Training Complex and the Martin County Innovation District.
6. **Approval of February 8, 2023, Minutes:** Mayor Troy McDonald moved for approval of the February 8, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Tom Weber. Approved 11-0.
7. **Approval of January 2023 Financials:** David Snyder presented the January 2023, financials and noted BDB cash balances totaled \$443,784.14 including the Board’s Reserve Account of \$59,571.61. He also announced the County’s quarterly payment has been received and that Mid-Florida Credit Union recently joined the BDB as the first Entrepreneur Council level investor. Mayor Troy McDonald moved to accept the January 2023 financials as presented. Seconded by Alex Anzalone. Approved 11-0.



8. **Presentation: FY 2022 Audited Financial Statements and 990 Tax Return:** Richard Mishock of HBK CPAs and Consultants, the BDB's Auditors, reported that they have completed the organization's FY 2022 Audit which was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and their audit opinion will be "unmodified" or clean. Additionally, the following was noted:
- They appreciated the fact that the Board accepted and implemented its recommendations from last year designed to improve internal controls.
  - The addition of Gelinas Group is a value-add to the organization.
  - No difficulties were encountered in performing the audit.
  - No disagreements with management.
  - Signed management representation letter will be obtained prior to issuance of the Audited Financial Statements and 990 report to the IRS.
  - No management consultations with other independent accountants were identified.
  - No material deficiencies or weaknesses to report and a letter stating same is forthcoming.

A motion to approve Form 990 as presented was made by Jeff Leslie. Seconded by Mayor Troy McDonald. Approved 11-0.

A motion to approve the FY 2022 audited financial statements as presented was made by Tom Weber. Seconded by Ron Rose. Approved 11-0.

9. **2023 BDB Legislative Action Plan:** Joan K. Goodrich presented the proposed 2023 BDB Legislative Action Plan designed to advocate for the needs of the local economy while advancing industry sectors and improving Martin County business competitiveness and community vibrancy. Ms. Goodrich stressed BDB advocacy is generally done in collaboration with local, regional and state partners and this year's proposed plan has both policy and appropriation requests to the Florida Legislature and Governor's Office including:
- Phasing out Florida's tax on commercial leases.
  - Investing in Trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to expand Florida manufacturing and increase foreign direct business capital investments.
  - Increasing funding for Incumbent Workforce Training (IWT) and Quick Response Training (QRT) grants.
  - Providing tax relief for companies creating net new jobs and investing in site readiness and talent development.
  - Increasing operational funding and regulatory flexibility for Rural Areas of Opportunity.
  - Supporting the Village of Indiantown as it renews its designation as a "Rural Community" with the Department of Economic Opportunity and leverages all programs for Rural Areas of Opportunity.
  - Preserving and fully funding the Sadowski Act Housing Trust Fund.

In addition to these specific priorities, the BDB supports appropriation requests for:

- The Martin County Board of County Commission Legislative Appropriation Requests totaling \$21.6 million for Septic to Sewer Conversion, Bridge and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) infrastructure projects.
- City of Stuart Legislative Appropriation Request totaling \$500,000 for a Stormwater Improvement Project.



- The \$500,000 appropriations request by MartinArts in creating an Arts Center for the Treasure Coast at the historic Stuart High School.
- Continued funding for Enterprise Florida, the state's primary economic development organization, dedicated to Florida's economic diversification and resiliency funding for business development, along with its budget requests for Florida's Export Initiative, Florida International Business Representation Growth, Business Intelligence Program and Accelerator Bridge Initiative.
- Continued operational funding and 2023 program funding requests for Space Florida, Visit Florida, CareerSource Florida, Florida SBDC Network, Indian River State College, GrowFL and FloridaMakes.

Mayor Troy McDonald moved to accept the plan as presented with the addition of and appropriation for expediting the widening of State Route 710 in Indiantown. Second by Ed Weinberg. Approved 11- 0.

- 10. Director Updates | General Announcements | Requests:** Joan K. Goodrich announced a half-day BDB Leaders Summit to be held (in lieu of the April Board meeting) on April 12<sup>th</sup> at IRSC, Chastain Campus. This is a new annual event designed to engage BDB economic champions (directors, investors, partners) executives, entrepreneurs and civic leaders in future BDB economic plans and strategies which result in jobs, tax base, community vibrancy while preserving Martin County's character and distinctiveness. She asked that all Directors planning on attending to register online.

Chairman Kiehn also reminded Directors of their responsibility to provide their audio and/or video testimonials about "Why Martin County is Good for Business" and one explaining why they are serving – involved with the BDB. Any Director who needs assistance should connect with BDB staff.

- 11. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.