

BEAUFORT COUNTY

E C O N O M I C D E V E L O P M E N T



BEAUFORT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD Monthly Board Meeting Minutes April 20, 2022

Present: Chairman Ed Booth, Bubs Carson, Commissioner Rebholz, Mia Williams, Joy McRoy

Absent: Archie Griffin, Dylan Bowen, Dr. David Loope, Chad Keech, Andy Fisher, Clif Williams, Ricky Credle, Don Sadler

Other Attendees: Mark Hamblin, Sarah Bernart, Brian Alligood, Gregory Smith, Susan Squires, William Smith

Welcome: Chairman Ed Booth

Introduction: Susan Squires

Speaker: Warren Allen, President Clickfirm/Elite Truck Boxes

Warren Allen is the Co-Founder of EliteTruck.com which is the #1 Website in commercial vehicle equipment. The Elite Truck offices are located in Washington, NC on Market St. Warren recently purchased the “Bloom” Building in downtown Washington. He is an ECU alum, supporter of the Rise 29 Program and makes his home in historic Washington.

Warren Allen: I started working with Grover Gaming but eventually left to partner with my friend Harrison Boyd to create Elite Truck Boxes. The company just took off finding a niche in the truck accessory market.

Elite truck was founded to simplify the process of purchasing commercial truck accessories for companies and individuals across the country. We had one goal in mind, to provide our customers with the highest quality products available with the best customer service in the industry.

Elite Truck headquarters is in Washington, North Carolina. We have established unique partner relationships with high quality American manufacturers, we ship our products from more than 200,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space across the United States. We work from a small office downtown. We are looking to expand to accommodate additional employees in response to our continued growth.

We chose to work in Beaufort County because the rent in Washington was affordable when compared to Greenville. Once here, I realized the area had so much to offer. I was able to purchase a historic home on 2nd St and Academy, I can walk to work, walk to restaurants, enjoy the water, and have a quality of life that is pretty rare. My fiancée, an ER Doctor at Vidant Beaufort, and I have recently purchased the Bloom Building and have plans to renovate the property. We have made Beaufort County our home.

Minutes: Chairman Booth advised without a quorum; approval of the minutes will be postponed until the next Advisory Board Meeting.

Community Reports:

Aurora, Clif Williams: Absent

Bath, Bubs Carson: Preparations are underway for the upcoming Memorial Day celebration. Scheduled for Saturday May 28 is a BBQ cookoff, music by the Embers and fireworks. This all-day event will have entertainment and food for all.

Belhaven, Ricky Credle: Absent

Chocowinity, Joy McRoy: Baseball/Softball season has officially started. Everything is good in Chocowinity.

Pantego, Chad Keech: Absent.

Washington, Don Sadler: Absent

Washington Park Dylan Bowen: Absent

Community College Update, Dr. David Loope: Absent

County Update, Commissioner John Rebholz: The County will be meeting next week to work on the GREAT Grant Application. We are moving forward to provide broadband throughout Beaufort County. Also upcoming are the Board of Equalization meetings and in May Beaufort County Budget meetings. The state of the County is very good.

Beaufort County Business Update, Randy Roark: Absent.

EDPNC Update, Sarah Bernart: There are still funds, originating from ARPA, available to local governments from the state. During the “goodbye” tour, I met with several businesses who said they were looking to expand. Sue and I recently met with one that has expressed interest in the Washington Beaufort County Industrial Park.

NC East Alliance Update, Mark Hamblin: There is a lot of interest in Eastern North Carolina. Our recent meeting with representatives of the Federal Reserve provided valuable insight as we continue to work for our region.

Beaufort County Schools CTE, Vicky Hamill: Absent

NCWORKS Update: Greg Smith: We continue to try to fill positions. We are hosting job fairs and drive-up job events trying our best to be accessible.

Comments by Clif Williams, Mayor Town of Aurora: Absent

BCED Update, Susan Squires: All is well. Thanks to Sarah Bernart for all her help during this transition period.

Motion to Adjourn: John Rebholz

Second: Joy McRoy