

THE ENGLAND ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION JANUARY 23, 1997

The England Economic and Industrial Development District met in Regular Session at its regular meeting place, the England Authority Board Room, Building 1803 Arnold Drive, England Industrial Airpark and Community, Alexandria, Louisiana, on Thursday, January 23, 1997, at 4:28 p.m. (Central Standard Time).

There were present: Mr. Barry Hines, *Chairman*, Ms. Bridgett Brown, *Vice-Chairman*, Mr. H. K. Stanley, *Secretary/Treasurer*, Mr. Gene Cotton, Mr. Michael Tudor, Mr. George Thompson, Mr. Jim Meyer, Mr. Kit Provine

Absent: Mr. Tom Fowler and Mr. Phillip Terrell

Also present were Mr. Jon Grafton, *Executive Director*, members of the England Authority staff, legal counsel, members of the public, press and media.

Mr. Barry Hines gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman requested a roll call. All commissioners were present except Mr. Tom Fowler and Mr. Phillip Terrell.

The England Economic and Industrial Development District was duly convened as the governing authority of said District by Mr. Barry Hines, *Chairman*, who then stated that the England Economic and Industrial Development District was ready for the transaction of business.

APPROVE MINUTES.

Motion made by Mr. Provine, seconded by Mr. Stanley to approve Minutes of December 19, 1996 Board of Commissioners Meeting. On vote, motion carried. 02-1997

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 1997 SPECIAL MEETING

Motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Provine to approve Minutes of January 10, 1997 Special meeting. On vote, motion carried. 03-1997

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY'S BILL

Motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Stanley to approve payment of attorney's bill for the month of December, 1996. On vote, motion carried. 04-1997

MOTION TO REQUEST CONGRESSMAN JOHN COOKSEY TO NOMINATE THE I-49/LA28 WEST CONNECTOR

Motion made by Mr. Cotton, seconded by Ms. Brown to request Congressman John Cooksey to nominate the I-49/La.28 West Connector as a Federal Highway Demonstration Project. On vote, motion carried. 05-1997

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN STATE SUPPLEMENTAL COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT

Motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Provine to authorize the Executive Director to

sign state supplemental cooperative endeavor agreement. On vote, motion carried. 06-1997

MOTION TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF MR. ALAN K. OLSEN

Motion made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Thompson to express sympathy to the family of Mr. Alan K. Olsen for the loss of Mr. Olsen on December 26, 1996 and expressing the gratitude of the England Authority for the positive and constructive manner in which Mr. Olsen worked with our body. On vote, motion passed. 07-1997

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Grafton reported to the board that he had received a fax copy of a letter of resignation from Mr. Terrell. Mr. Grafton further reported that it was his understanding of our legislation that we must advise the Police Jury of the vacancy. The legal committee will be assigned this project.

The Executive Director reported that leased commercial properties are approximately 931,000 square feet. Airport Operations completed the calendar year at 39,377 airport operations. It continues to climb every year and it is expected that this figure will reach the mid 45's during 1997 and possibly higher. Our lowest month is December because of the lack of rotations however, the base operations has continued to rise. Fuel sales are continuing the trend of approaching the top of the curve. There should be a rise in the Spring due to heavy rotations. Total enplanements for the year were 87,008 compared to the previous year's 66,310. This is the largest number of enplanements in the history of Rapides Parish. Airport parking crossed the 4,000 line on total number of cars served. Minority and women owned business is at 36% to this date. Back gate housing is at 49 to date. LeTig rentals were up to 60 for the year and this continues to be a successful idea. As of December of 1996, the annual job count was 11,091 direct jobs associated with England and its off-site projects. During this year, we had approximately 16,020 indirect jobs and there were approximately 50 construction jobs. With the loss of J.B. Hunt, we lost approximately 300 jobs.

Mr. Grafton reported on the effects of the ice storm on the airport runway. He commended Mr. Hair and his crew for their work on the runway. Our goal is to not ever have an hour of non-business.

Congressman Cooksey visited the Airpark and stated his interest in this facility. He also stated that he was very interested in being on the Aviation Sub-committee of the Transportation Committee in the House of Representatives. We wrote him a letter thanking him for his visit and offered our encouragement to join that sub-committee if he were asked.

Mr. Grafton informed the board of the upcoming telephone system upgrade for helping the public to reach the airlines.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Mr. Slowinski stated that the revenues and expenditures were on track and the fund balances were in excellent condition.


OPERATIONS REPORT - No report given this date.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Mr. Bonnette is out this date due to a personal emergency. Mr. Grafton asked that Mr. Provosty give a report on the tax issue that is before the court at this time. Mr. Albin Provosty reported that he had filed the Motion for Summary Judgment. The judge stated that this was a very important case and it would effect other issues. There were no surprises from any one giving testimony for the assessor's office. It is Mr. Provosty's opinion that we were in a good position at this time. The England Authority has requested a 15 days to allow us to file a brief to refute the assessor's witnesses. Judge Ryland granted the 15 days and granted the assessor 5 days to reply and the judge said that his judgment and reason for judgment would follow shortly thereafter.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Mr. Cotton, seconded by Ms. Brown to adjourn meeting.



Mr. Barry Hines, Chairman
*England Economic & Industrial Development District
Board of Commissioners*



Mr. H. K. Stanley, Secretary-Treasurer
*England Economic & Industrial Development District
Board of Commissioners*