TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
May 2, 2013
4:00 p.m.

Town of Edisto Beach
Town Hall
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach SC 29438

Present: Jane Morrow, Vice Chairperson, Alex Pournelle, Charlie Vincent, Walton Salley, Lisa White, and Molly Watkins, Board Members.

Absent: Iddy Andrews (out of the country)

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Morrow called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Charlie Vincent moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2013. Lisa White seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

New Business:

Presentation by Councilman Tommy Mann: Councilman Mann spoke to the Board about usage of ATAX funds, and that they were to be used for more than to put "heads in beds". For example, the interest on the Bell Property Bond Debt is paid with $50,000 of ATAX funds. Infrastructure improvements that are directly related to serving tourists are also included. Edisto Beach is the only coastal community that has a high concentration of tourists that receives less than $900,000 in ATAX funds per year. Councilman Mann has been in touch with the TERC committee for clarification on specifically what funds can and cannot be used for. He asked former TERC Chairman Ed Riggs if the debt on the bond used to fund a Reverse Osmosis plant would apply. Mr. Riggs deferred to Damita Jeter, who stated clearly the TERC cannot legally advise the Town on how to spend its money. Ms. Jeter suggested we contact our Town Attorney, which has been done. Councilman Mann said his main reason in coming before the ATAX board was to brief the Board for their information, pending approval from voters of the upcoming referendum, and pending the Town applying for ATAX funds for a portion of the interest on the bond. Lisa White thanked Councilman Mann on behalf of the Board for keeping them informed.

ATAX Fund Balance: The available cash balance is $219,392.68. The encumbered funds total is $171,715.57. Lisa White made the motion to approve the Fund Balance. Charlie Vincent seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ATAX Fund Approval Letter: The approval letters for the Town of Edisto Beach Police Department Polaris ATV and Beach Patrol for $22,612.00 and the SCDNR Governor's Cup for $7,800 were reviewed.

ATAX Applications:

Town of Edisto Beach Bell Property Bond Debt: Town Administrator Iris Hill presented the application on behalf of the Town for $50,000 to be used towards the interest on the general obligation bond debt. Charlie Vincent moved to approve the application. Lisa White seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Edisto Chamber of Commerce, The Edisto Beach Music and Shag Fest: Director Dan Carter presented the application on behalf of the Chamber for $5,500 for the Edisto Beach Music and Shag Fest to be held August 30 and 31, 2013. A discussion ensued on the timing of the Festival not being on a "shoulder season" weekend, but on Labor Day weekend. Alex Pournelle made a motion to approve $5,500 for the Beach Music and Shag Fest. Charlie Vincent seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Jane Morrow called for a vote, and there was a 3-3 tie. The motion failed. Charlie Vincent then made a motion to approve $4,000, seconded by Walton Salley. The motion passed 4 – 2 with Molly Watkins and Lisa White opposed.

Edisto Chamber of Commerce, The Edisto Beach Shrimp Fest: Chairman Dan Carter presented the application on behalf of the Chamber for $4,000 for the Edisto Beach Shrimp Fest to be held September 28, 2013. After a conversation on the possibility of combining the Shag Fest and the Shrimp Fest in the future, Alex Pournelle moved to approve the request for $4,000. Walton Salley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Charlie Vincent moved to adjourn the meeting. Alex Pournelle seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

The public/media was duly notified of the ATAX meeting on Friday, April 26, 2013.

APPROVED BY THE ATAX BOARD

Deborah J Hargis

Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk
August 1, 2013