

**Town of Amherst  
Industrial Development Authority  
May 31, 2016**

A special meeting of the Town of Amherst Industrial Development Authority was called to order by Chairman Jim Meade on May 31, 2016 at 7:00 AM in the large meeting room on the upper floor the County building at 153 Washington Street. A quorum was present as follows:

A Jacob Bailey	P Richard Wydner
P Gary Jennings	P Jim Meade
P Lewis Addison	A Vernon Wood
P C. Manly Rucker, III	

Town Manager Jack Hobbs, in his capacity as Secretary to the Authority, and Mayor Paul Kilgore were present.

The Chair yielded the floor to the Amherst County EDA which held a concurrent meeting.

Consultants Crystal Morphus and Leigh Ann Howe from Creative Economic Development Consulting (Elkin, NC) came forward to give a presentation on the first draft of an economic development strategic plan for Amherst County. Recommended initiatives are summarized in the following graphic from the presentation:

<b>Branding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Branding Initiative for Amherst County</li></ul>
<b>Space for Businesses to Grow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance Current Parks/Sites</li><li>• Future Business Park Planning</li><li>• Infrastructure Investments</li><li>• 210 Corridor Development</li></ul>
<b>Small Business &amp; Entrepreneur Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incubator Facility</li></ul>
<b>Education and Workforce Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training Center</li></ul>
<b>Leadership Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership Amherst</li><li>• Merging IDA/EDA</li></ul>

Ms. Morphus reported that her work resulted in two key findings:

1. Due to the decline of Amherst County as measured by decreasing population and workforce figures, inaction is not an option when it comes to economic development, and
2. There is a need for county-wide unity which might be achieved through initiatives such as her suggested "One Amherst" theme.

After some general discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 AM.

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James Meade, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary