

Washington County Economic Development Commission Board

Regular Meeting January 14, 2015

The regular meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission Board (EDC) was held at 100 West Washington Street, Room 255. The following members were present: Hugh Breslin (Chair), Paul Crampton (Vice Chair), Jef Bohn (Secretary), Bob Jeffers, Ed Lough, Wade Watson, and Julie Rohm. Excused members were Ryan Daughtridge, Dan Pheil, Janet Stiles Fulton, and Pete Thomas.

Ex-Officio members attending were Jill Frick, Economic Development Manager for the City of Hagerstown; Kristen Aleshire and Donald Munson, Council Members for the City of Hagerstown. Greg Snook was absent from the meeting. Additional attendees include Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Kassie Lewis, Bob Mandley, Greg Murray, Sarah Sprecher and Steve Goodrich.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Hugh Breslin.

Approval of the Agenda – Ed Lough made a motion to approve the Agenda for January 14, 2015 the motion was seconded by Bob Jeffers and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Jef Bohn motioned to approve the meeting minutes of December 11, 2014 as presented, the motion was seconded by Bob Jeffers and approved by unanimous vote.

Elected Officials' Comments – Hugh Breslin announced the Washington County Board of County Commissioners officially appointed Commissioner President Terry Baker, Commissioner John Barr and Commissioner LeRoy Myers as representatives to the Washington County Economic Development Commission Board.

Director's Report – Kassie Lewis commented on a recent meeting she attended regarding a four state economic development partnership being formed due to an unnamed manufacturer locating in West Virginia. Washington County and other surrounding areas were asked to cooperate regarding workforce and supplier needs as this would have a positive effect on these areas as well. She also announced that Governor Hogan appointed Michael Gill as the new Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development (DBED) Secretary. Project Watermelon flyers and proposed survey questions were handed out to members for review and comments. Steve Goodrich of Washington County Planning gave a short presentation on the designation of Job Creation & Tax Credit Property Funding Area that will be presented to the BOCC for approval. A motion to support the funding area that will be presented to the BOCC was made by Ed Lough, the motion was seconded by Wade Watson, and approved by a unanimous vote. Steve Goodrich also indicated that a formal letter of support by the EDC Board would be useful.

Executive Committee – Hugh Breslin reported James Herbert of Antietam Cable Television and J. Herbert Enterprises was appointed by the BOCC to serve on the Washington County Economic Development Board.

City Center Committee – There was nothing to report for the *City Center Committee*.

Education and Workforce Development Committee – Bob Jeffers announced that a meeting will take place today between the *Workforce Development Committee*, Dr. Wilcox of the Washington County Board of Education and the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education. The purpose of this meeting is to explore how the Business Roundtable might be able to assist with the long-range public relations plan and how we can move forward in a manner that coincides with the direction of the school system itself. Wade Watson stated that there will be a Robotics Competition held at Clear Spring High School on February 7, 2015. Julie Rohm indicated that on the same day a college readiness event will be hosted by the Herald Mail at the Valley Mall.

Marketing and Communications Committee – Julie Rohm indicated there was nothing to report this month.

Old Business – Sarah Sprecher discussed meeting with the State Delegation to discuss different initiatives supported by the County, including the recently approved Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE) Zone Program. She noted that a request was made to bring back Partnership for Workforce Quality and Maryland Industrial Training Program, two programs that worked in the past as additional incentives. Also discussed with the State Delegation were permitting issues with respect to outside agencies. Greg Murray commented MACo was well attended and many new contacts made.

New Business – Jill Frick discussed the following recently posted request to developers to respond with interest in two projects in relation to the Community's City Center Plan: **1** – In support of Catalyst Project #3 - Support of USMH Expansion, the City of Hagerstown and UMSH are soliciting the interest of existing City Center building owners of properties within the USMH Student Housing Project Area to become the developer/partner for the first model project in Catalyst Project #3, through a Request for Statement of Interest (RFSI)/Proposals process **2** - In conjunction with Catalyst Project #1 – Office Development & Recruitment, the City of Hagerstown is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for experienced office developers to become the developer/partner with the City on an office development/recruitment of new office users project in Hagerstown's City Center). Fact sheets that gave short summaries of the two projects along with links to the full Request for Statement of Interest (RFSI) and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) were sent to the EDC Board for their awareness. Kassie commented that she along with Linda Spence of the DBD office would be attending MEDA Winter Conference in Annapolis on January 15, 2015. She also stated that Airport Director Phil Ridenour will attend the February 12, 2015 EDC Board meeting to provide an update on the state of the airport. Sarah Sprecher announced 2014 State of the County will take place on February 3, 2015. The morning presentation will take place at Fountain Head Country Club at 7:30 a.m. and the evening presentation will take place at the Washington County Public Library at 6:00 p.m. Sarah also distributed the latest edition of the DBD *Journal* newsletter. Jef Bohn encouraged more attendance to the business outreach visits by the EDC Board and requested that Linda create a grid to help make members aware of are attending visits.

Closed Session – Jef Bohn motioned to go into Closed Session to consider a matter concerning the proposal of a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; or any personnel matters in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion was seconded by Ed Lough. Hearing no discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Open Session – On a motion made by Bob Jeffers to return to Open Session and seconded by Ed Lough, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Hugh Breslin, Jef Bohn, Paul Crampton, Julie Rohm, Bob Jeffers, Ed Lough, Wade Watson, Jill Frick, Don Munson, Kristen Aleshire, Carmen Harbaugh, Kassie Lewis, Bob Mandley, Greg Murray, Tabitha Porterfield, Sarah Sprecher.

Adjournment – Bob Jeffers made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ed Lough. Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Carmen Harbaugh, Administrative Assistant
Washington County Department of Business Development