

Washington County Economic Development Commission

Regular Commission Meeting July 10, 2014

The regular meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission (EDC) was held at 100 West Washington Street, Room 225. The following members were present: Hugh Breslin (Chair), Paul Crampton (Vice Chair), Jef Bohn (Secretary), Robert Jeffers, Ed Lough, Dan Pheil, Kate Rader, Julie Rohm, Janet Stiles Fulton, and Pete Thomas. Members not in attendance were Ryan Daughtridge and Wade Watson.

Ex-Officio members attending were Terry Baker, Commissioner for Washington County; Kristin Aleshire and Donald Munson, Council Members for the City of Hagerstown; Jill Frick, Economic Development Manager for the City of Hagerstown; and Greg Snook, President for the Hagerstown/Washington County Industrial Foundation, Inc. Also in attendance were Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Bob Mandley, and Linda Spence, staff for the Washington County Department of Business Development; Sarah Sprecher, Assistant County Administrator for Washington County; and Greg Murray, County Administrator for Washington County. Open meeting attendants included Sam Devaram, Janice Riley and Theresa Shank.

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

Approval of the Order of Business – Hugh Breslin made a motion to approve the Order of Business for July 10, 2014 the motion was seconded by Paul Crampton and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Hugh Breslin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of June 12, 2014 as presented, the motion was seconded by Dan Pheil and approved by unanimous vote.

Technical Innovation Center Overview – Janice Riley, Manager for the Technical Innovation Center (TIC) gave an overview of the TIC explaining its focus is to foster tech startup companies into sustainable businesses based in Washington County. Partnerships are forged with the City of Hagerstown's EDC, Washington County Department of Business Development, University System of Maryland – Hagerstown, SCORE Hagerstown, Western Maryland SBTDC, Fort Detrick Alliance, and the MD Business Incubator Association. The TIC currently has 19 tenants with 3 newer tenants which are Elite Image Works, IOTS, and WBAT. Long-term tenant, DocuTrac, is graduating and moving to a new location on Dual Highway on September 1. Ms. Riley announced several upcoming events such as Start Up - Meet Ups on July 22 and August 12; Pitch Your Business Workshop on August 5, StartUp MD Pitch bus on September 22; Federal Lab Consortium/TEDCO Showcase on October 6; and the Ft. Detrick Alliance Tech Showcase on October 15. Facility tours can be scheduled in advance, and additional information can be obtained by calling the TIC.

Elected Officials' Comments – Commissioner Baker congratulated the Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau in announcing Dan Spedden as its new Executive Director, who will begin on September 1. Council Member Munson reported the Municipal Band will commemorate its 100th Anniversary with a concert at the City Park band shell on July 13 starting at 7:00 p.m. He explained citizen complaints about blighted areas are on the rise and stated the City has only three inspectors, down from eight, at this time. He requested financial assistance from the County to hire additional inspectors. He noted as the City begins to implement recommendations made by Urban Partners, he requested the County work with the City on projects such as the Massey property. Hugh Breslin encouraged members to attend a special presentation by Urban Partners regarding their Downtown Hagerstown Economic Development Analysis and Implementation Plan on July 16 at 2:00 p.m., in the 2nd floor workshop area in the County Administration Building.

Executive Committee – Hugh Breslin reported the Board of County Commissioners, on June 17, reappointed Ed Lough, representing the Chamber of Commerce; Dan Pheil, representing the Greater Hagerstown Committee; and Wade Watson, representing an At Large member to the Washington County Economic Development

Commission. He stated Julie Rohm was appointed to fill a vacant At Large position on the Commission as well. Mr. Breslin congratulated and welcomed Ms. Rohm to the Commission along with the three returning members. Executive Committee members recently discussed the current EDC committee structure and felt that in addition to the Executive Committee, the City Center, Education and Workforce Development, and Marketing and Communications committees will be charged in continuing the momentum in moving the Strategic Economic Development Plan and its recommendations forward. At this time, the Small Business Development and the Infrastructure and Site Development committees will become taskforces and deactivated until a need arises. Julie Rohm agreed to chair the Marketing and Communications Committee, while Bob Jeffers and Pete Thomas will continue in their dual leadership roles on the Education and Workforce Development Committee. A chair is needed for the City Center Committee, if interested, please let Linda Spence know. Committee chairs are encouraged to attend the next Executive Committee meeting to discuss action plans for the coming year. A meeting notification will be sent. Greg Murray made note the EDC Ordinance amendment will be discussed at a public hearing after satisfying the two-week advertising requirement. Mr. Murray stated he is hopeful a DBD Director will be named in the next 30 days.

Ag Marketing Advisory Committee – Leslie Hart reported an annual agriculture report was presented to the BOCC on July 1; “Vines and Wines” in Washington County, an *Eggs and Issues* event was held on July 9. The featured speaker was Kevin Atticks, who boasted Washington County’s location is perfect for grape growing. Currently three wineries exist in Washington County; Knob Hall, Red Heifer, and Big Cork. Big Cork is planning a ribbon cutting event in September. Ms. Hart stated the farming industry continues to grow with more than 860 farms within Washington County, MD. She encouraged members to take part in the upcoming Ag Expo & Fair and Market Sale during the week of July 19-26.

Workforce Development Committee – Hugh Breslin mentioned he recently sent a letter on behalf of the EDC in support of HCC’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medical Technical-Middle College’s related grant proposal application. Bob Jeffers noted he remains involved with the EARN Grant process with HCC and Volvo, announcing Volvo’s portion of the EARN Grant for its Truck Driving Program was approximately \$148,000. Greg Snook stated HCC continues to work with Volvo on relocating their truck driving program. The deadline to vacate the property was extended from August 2014 to January 2015.

Old Business – Greg Snook updated members on the Yale Drive project stating pre-bid meetings have been held and bids are due by August 13. It appears bid review and award would be done by mid-September. CHIEF would consider building a wet lab spec building but prefers a private developer consider that endeavor. When questioned about the “Bridge Over the Antietam” project, Mr. Snook stated there is no funding available at this time to move beyond the study phase. Ed Lough vehemently believes the bridge project is an absolute necessity to ensure public safety to which all agree.

New Business – Hugh Breslin reminded everyone again about the Urban Partners presentation to the EDC Board on July 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Closed Session – Hugh Breslin 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 in accordance with Section 10-508 of the Maryland State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion was seconded by Jef Bohn. Hearing no discussion the motion to go into Closed Session was approved by unanimous vote.

Open Session – On a motion made by Dan Pheil to return to Open Session and seconded by Kate Rader, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Kristin Aleshire, Terry Baker, Jef Bohn, Hugh Breslin, Paul Crampton, Jill Frick, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Bob Jeffers, Ed Lough, Bob Mandley, Donald Munson, Greg Murray, Dan Pheil, Kate Rader, Julie Rohm, Greg Snook, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, Janet Stiles Fulton. and Pete Thomas.

*Adjournment – Dan Pheil made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Paul Crampton.
Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.*

Linda Spence, Business Support Specialist
Department of Business Development