

Washington County Economic Development Commission

Annual Commission Meeting June 12, 2014

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

Ex-Officio members attending were Terry Baker and William McKinley, Commissioners for Washington County; Donald Munson, Council Member for the City of Hagerstown; Jill Frick, Economic Development Manager for the City of Hagerstown; Sandy Mehalko, Regional Director for the Small Business Technology & Development Center (SBTDC); Julie Rohm, General Manager of the Valley Mall; 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 of the Washington County Department of Business Development; and James Jenkins, Tabitha Porterfield, and Sarah Sprecher from the Washington County Department of Public Relations and Community Affairs. Open meeting attendants include Sam Devaram and The Honorable Ronald Bowers.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Dan Pheil.

Approval of the Order of Business – Paul Crampton made a motion to approve the Order of Business for June 12, 2014 the motion was seconded by Ed Lough and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Ed Lough motioned to approve the meeting minutes of May 8, 2014 as presented, the motion was seconded by Pete Thomas and approved by unanimous vote.

Elected Officials' Comments – Commissioner McKinley noted the unemployment rate in Washington County for May dipped to 6.2% from 6.4% reported in April 2014. Recent data reported more than 400 companies in Washington County have sales in excess of \$1M annually. Council Member Munson stated the Mayor and Council would hear a report from Urban Partners on June 17. Commissioner Baker presented Stu Mullendore with a Certificate of Recognition from the Board of County Commissioners for his years of service on the Washington County Economic Development Commission.

Executive Committee – Dan Pheil reported committee members recently met and discussed a proposed Slate of Officers that include Chair, Hugh Breslin; Vice Chair, Paul Crampton; and Secretary, Jef Bohn. *On a motion made by Ed Lough, seconded by Pete Thomas, and unanimously approved, the proposed Slate of Officers is approved.* In addition to the Slate of Officers, Mr. Pheil explained two additional members are needed to round out membership on the Executive Committee. *Janet Stiles Fulton made a motion to appoint Ed Lough and Dan Pheil to the Executive Committee pending their reappointment to the Economic Development Commission by the Board of County Commissioners on June 17. Stu Mullendore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.* With Stu Mullendore's term as an At Large representative coming to a close, the committee discussed three potential nominees. Kate Rader reminded members of Council Member Aleshire's correspondence about possibly adding a representative of the social services sector to the Economic Development Commission. After discussion, members agreed to include social services as an identified skill set on the Skills Matrix. *Stu Mullendore made a motion to refer (in alphabetical order) Brian Lynch of Antietam Cable, Sys Machat of Prudential Bowen Realty, and Julie Rohm of the Valley Mall to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration in filling the vacant At Large position. The motion was seconded by Paul Crampton and approved unanimously.* Mr. Pheil noted Wade Watson is also eligible for reappointment to serve a first, full three-year term as an At Large representative. *Stu Mullendore made a motion to recommend Wade Watson to the Board of County Commissioners for reappointment to the EDC for his first, three-year term as an*

At Large member. The motion was seconded by Jef Bohn and passed unanimously. Mr. Pheil noted a description of the various committees and taskforces, along with a sign-up sheet has been included in their information packet. He encouraged members to review it and be prepared to discuss it at the July meeting.

Ag Marketing Advisory Committee – Leslie Hart stated according to a recent article in the Herald-Mail, Maryland has exceeded MDE’s Chesapeake Bay pollution control measures. She noted the Ag Expo & Fair is scheduled for the week of July 19-26 and encouraged members to take advantage of the market fair event where the public can purchase fresh goat, lamb, beef, poultry, etc. Commissioner Baker challenged the EDC to a bidding contest this year. Funds raised on the purchase of goods at the market fair directly benefit FFA students. Ms. Hart stated the *Taste of the Valley Food & Wine* event is scheduled for June 21 and tickets are going fast. She reminded members the *Eggs and Issues* event on July 9 will feature “Vines and Wine” in Washington County. Janet Stiles Fulton explained run-off still pose an issue for Washington County farmers. Greg Snook stated CHIEF will support local farmers with reforestation efforts.

Marketing & Public Relations Committee – Stu Mullendore strongly encouraged the commission continue efforts to promote the creation of a Neighborhood Improvement Zone (NIZ) and a City Revitalization Improvement Zone (CRIZ) in Hagerstown-Washington County, MD. A professional draftsman should be enlisted to write the required legislation. The process should begin in September 2014. Mr. Pheil stated he would broach the subject with the Washington County Lobbying Coalition through the Greater Hagerstown Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

Small Business Development Committee – Kate Rader noted the committee has not met in some time but remain committed to projects serving as a resource for small business. She anticipates recruiting additional members and requested Pete Thomas serve as a workforce development resource.

Workforce Development Committee – Bob Jeffers announced Hagerstown Community College and Volvo Group Trucks were awarded EARN grants. He stated the committee recently discussed lifelong learning reaching all age ranges of children, and youth seeking work.

Old Business – Greg Snook commented on the loss of construction time on the Yale Drive project but continues to work with the engineers for a final sign-off. He stated Professional Court received funding and is moving forward. Mr. Snook mentioned HCC’s Truck Driving School will move from its current location at the Volvo facility due to Volvo’s need to utilize the space for expansion. HCC is working to identify a temporary location, by August, until a permanent location can be found.

New Business – Sarah Sprecher announced the Department of Public Relations and Community Affairs, with input from the Department of Business Development, created a newsletter entitled *Journal*. Its distribution will be every other month and is available in print, online, email and blog. Mr. Pheil commented on the article featuring a recent visit to Laundry Equipment Services and how its business was boosted by moving to Hagerstown/Washington County from a neighboring West Virginia address. He was impressed with the large amount of technology utilized by the laundry industry. Council Member Munson commended the County in working with National Golden Tissue, along with Jill Frick and former EDC member Ron Bowers for efforts in maintaining this company in Washington County. Bob Mandley noted the effort was a year-long partnership involving many entities and partners.

Closed Session – Stu Mullendore motioned to go into Closed Session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for 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 Janet Stiles Fulton to return to Open Session and seconded by Ed Lough, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Terry Baker, Jef Bohn, Hugh

Breslin, Paul Crampton, Ryan Daughtridge, Jill Frick, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Bob Jeffers, James Jenkins, Ed Lough, Bob Mandley, Bill McKinley, Sandy Mehalko, Stuart Mullendore, Donald Munson, Dan Pheil, Tabitha Porterfield, Kate Rader, Julie Rohm, Greg Snook, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, Janet Stiles Fulton. and Pete Thomas.

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

Linda Spence, Business Support Specialist
Department of Business Development