



Washington County Economic Development Commission Board
Regular Meeting
March 12, 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), Jef Bohn (Secretary), Ryan Daughtridge, Jim Herbert, Bob Jeffers, Ed Lough, Julie Rohm, Janet Stiles Fulton, and Pete Thomas. Excused members were Paul Crampton (Vice Chair) and Wade Watson.

Ex-Officio members attending were Kristin Aleshire, Council Member for the City of Hagerstown; Jill Frick, Economic Development Manager for the City of Hagerstown; Greg Snook, President for the Hagerstown/Washington County Industrial Foundation, Inc. Council Member Donald Munson was excused; Commissioners Terry Baker, John Barr, and LeRoy Myers were not present.

Additional attendees included County staff, Carmen Harbaugh, Kassie Lewis, Bob Mandley, Greg Murray, Tabitha Porterfield, Phil Ridenour, Linda Spence, and Sarah Sprecher. Also in attendance was Sam Devaram of the Small Business Development Center.

Call to Order – Upon calling the meeting to order, Chair Hugh Breslin requested members to observe a moment of silence to reflect on the passing of Dan Pheil and his contribution and dedication to family and community.

Approval of the Agenda – Ed Lough motioned to approve the March 12, 2015 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Jef Bohn. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – Jim Herbert made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2015 as presented. Ed Lough seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Hagerstown Regional Airport Presentation – Phil Ridenour, Director of the Hagerstown Regional Airport presented members with an overview of the airport, stating the airport plays a vital role in economic development efforts in Washington County, MD. Allegiant passenger air service has been extended to year round flights to the Orlando/Sanford, FL area; while a second passenger service on PIE to the Clearwater/St. Pete, FL area has been added recently. Sun Air Express shuttles passengers from Hagerstown to Dulles airport. Mr. Ridenour noted the airport is home to 17 businesses; Sierra Nevada Corporation being the largest employer, having 400+ employees. Mr. Ridenour noted approximately 40 acres of ground is available for future development. The airport is targeting avionics-related industries, and would like to pursue two facilities to accommodate large aircraft painting, and large aircraft storage. During hours of operation, more than 54,000 flights are tracked through the air traffic control tower, and there is a great need to replace the current tower due to an inability to maintain a 360 degree visual of the airport runways.

Elected Officials' Comments – Council Member Aleshire commented on residential housing concerns and the perception of displacement, residential utilities are in arrears of approximately \$3M, a late fee was instituted for utility accounts, and downtown housing for University System of Maryland – Hagerstown students.

Director's Report – Nothing to report.

Executive Committee – Hugh Breslin stated staff is working to develop a comparison of projects lost and gained in Washington County, MD as compared to those in Pennsylvania and West Virginia on a State and County level. Due to Dan Pheil's passing, a vacancy exists on the board. His position will be converted from a Greater Hagerstown Committee representative to a representative At Large as stipulated in the *Economic Development Ordinance for Washington County, MD*. The committee recommends submittal of Michael Reyka of Meritus Medical Center and Michael Zampelli of Hagerstown Radiologist, whose were submitted a couple of months ago, and requested members review the list of the five most recent candidates supplied from the County Clerk's

office that Linda Spence will forward via email. Send nomination by reply return to Ms. Spence who will confirm once the third candidate's name has been determined. The names of all three candidates will be then be forwarded to the BOCC for consideration and approval.

City Center Committee – Ryan Daughtridge praised the Mayor and Council for a successful State of the City address, delivered on March 10. Jim Herbert announced he would serve on the committee and offered his expertise on broadband opportunities for the City of Hagerstown. A meeting with the Mayor and Council, City Center and Executive committees will be scheduled to discuss support for City projects.

Education and Workforce Development Committee – While the committee has been dormant, Bob Jeffers noted they continue to support the Greater Hagerstown Committee's proposal to institute a 14 year school program. Kassie Lewis explained she and Bob Mandley recently met with DBED representatives and Frederick County officials regarding manufacturing programs.

Marketing and Communications Committee – Julie Rohm reported the *Celebration of Business* event is just around the corner. She encouraged board members to sponsor the event if they have not done so already; we are short of our \$25,000 goal by nearly \$6,000. This year's event will be held April 14, 2015 at Fountain Head Country Club, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Old Business – Greg Snook reported Hagerstown Community College is undergoing the re-accreditation process and some community representatives may be asked for comment. He announced that more than 670 students were de-registered, 400 of which were due to financial reasons which is of major concern to the college. Mr. Snook explained the Yale Drive project has been temporarily halted due to ground saturation.

New Business – Janet Stiles Fulton and Julie Rohm noted this weekend is agricultural week at the Valley Mall in support of the Ag Expo & Fair and encouraged everyone to come out and support the exhibitors.

Closed Session – *Pete Thomas 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 Janet Stiles Fulton to return to Open Session and seconded by Jef Bohn, the motion was unanimously approved.* Present during Closed Session were Kristin Aleshire, Hugh Breslin, Jef Bohn, Jill Frick, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Jim Herbert, Bob Jeffers, Kassie Lewis, Ed Lough, Bob Mandley, Greg Murray, Tabitha Porterfield, Julie Rohm, Greg Snook, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, Janet Stiles Fulton, and Pete Thomas.

Adjournment – *Janet Stiles Fulton 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
Washington County Department of Business Development