



Washington County Economic Development Commission Board
Regular Meeting
April 9, 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), Ryan Daughtridge, Bob Jeffers, Ed Lough, Janet Stiles Fulton, and Pete Thomas; Jim Herbert was excused, and Julie Rohm was not present.

Ex-Officio members attending were Kristin Aleshire and Donald Munson, Council Members 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. 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, Linda Spence, and Sarah Sprecher. Sam Devaram of the Small Business Development Center was also in attendance.

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

Approval of the Agenda – Bob Jeffers motioned to approve the April 9, 2015 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ed Lough. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Elected Officials' Comments – Council Member Munson explained the City of Hagerstown and the Maryland Historic Trust have resolved concerns pertaining to the renovation of the Patterson Building. The City of Hagerstown plans to repurpose the building into apartments to house up to eight (8) students attending the University System of Maryland – Hagerstown campus. The City of Hagerstown may use this project as an opportunity to interject favorable compromises for various economic development uses of historic grant funding. Ed Lough questioned the absence of County Commissioner representatives at EDC Board meetings.

Director's Report – Kassie Lewis reported the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) recently announced the DBD's "Loves My Business Campaign" won a "Judges Choice" award which will be presented during MEDA's Annual Conference being held later this month. In addition, the "Loves My Business Campaign" was submitted recently for award consideration with the International Economic Development Council. She announced staff is preparing for a South Korean client visit planned for April 10. The visit will include numerous informational segments with community and local government stakeholders, along with a tour of available land that may meet their project requirements.

Executive Committee – Hugh Breslin reported Wade Watson resigned from the EDC Board, effective April 1. He has taken another position at the Volvo facility in Macungie, PA. In light of Mr. Watson's departure and the passing of Dan Pheil, who both represented manufacturing, the committee will work with the County's Public Relations team to call on local manufacturers who may have an interest in serving on the EDC Board. Ms. Lewis suggested a "Welcome" reception be held for new leaders of Volvo's Hagerstown facility. Committee members recommended submitting only two candidates' names to fill Dan Pheil's vacant position, those being Michael Reyka of Meritus Medical Center and Michael Zampelli of Hagerstown Radiologist. *On a motion made by Bob Jeffers and seconded by Pete Thomas, members approved submission of only two candidates for BOCC consideration to fill the At-Large position.*

City Center Committee – Ryan Daughtridge reported the committee recently met with Mark Halsey of the USM-H campus. Mr. Halsey stated a Physician’s Extender program will be offered next year at the Hagerstown campus; this very prestigious program is sought after worldwide. There are 80 nursing students enrolled this year and the nursing program is expected to increase to more than 150 registered students next year. USM-H predicts housing demands to double each year for the next 5 years and beyond. Current student base is 500 and may increase to approximately 700-800 students over the next 10 years. Hugh Breslin noted the Executive and City Center committees are working to schedule a meeting with the Mayor and City Council to re-affirm its support of the City of Hagerstown’s Urban Partners’ 10 Year Plan for the City of Hagerstown.

Education and Workforce Development Committee – Bob Jeffers announced committee member, Pete Thomas will host the Washington County Public Schools’ Annual Career Development Awards ceremony. He noted HCC is struggling to meet EARN Grant stipulations for student enrollment in the Truck Driver’s program.

Marketing and Communications Committee – Hugh Breslin reported the *Celebration of Business* event is scheduled for April 14 and requested members arrive by 4:30 p.m. to assist in greeting our guests.

Old Business – Bob Mandley explained the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) granted a \$50,000 grant (\$25,000 from ARC and \$25,000 from the County) to DBD to conduct a Manufacturer’s Supply Chain study for Washington County, MD, including counties in surrounding West Virginia and Pennsylvania. A “Request for Proposal” to conduct the study will be released in the next couple of days. ARC stipulated a team of 5 individuals including the County Administrator (or designee), the DBD Director (or designee), the DBD Business Development Specialist and two EDC Board members serve on the RFP Response Review Team. Jef Bohn has agreed to serve on the team and others were encouraged to reach out to Mr. Mandley if interested. Hugh Breslin reminded commission members of the April 30 deadline to submit the County’s Disclosure Documents. Ed Lough inquired about the development of Professional Court and the bridge over the Antietam. Greg Snook noted plans for the project are still under development and expect engineering work to take approximately 1-1 ½ years to complete. He stated Delegate Andrew Serafini would like to host a visit with the Transportation Secretary in Washington County after the current legislative session ends.

New Business – Hugh Breslin announced *National Small Business Week* is being held May 4-8, 2015. Paul Crampton agreed to contact Municipality Mayors to request they nominate a small business or entrepreneur from the community to be recognized by the Board of County Commissioners on May 5. Mr. Breslin stated the *2015 Business & Industry Directory* is now available on-line.

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

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

Linda Spence, Business Support Specialist
Washington County Department of Business Development