

Washington County Economic Development Commission

Regular Commission Meeting January 9, 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: Dan Pheil (Chair), Paul Crampton (Vice Chair), Jef Bohn (Secretary), Hugh Breslin, Ryan Daughtridge, Bob Jeffers, Ed Lough, Stu Mullendore, Kate Rader, Pete Thomas, and Wade Watson. Janet Stiles Fulton was excused from the meeting.

Ex-Officio members attending were William McKinley, Commissioner for Washington County; Donald Munson, Council Member for the City of Hagerstown; Jill Estavillo, 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; Greg Snook, President for the Hagerstown/Washington County Industrial Foundation, Inc. Also attending were Greg Murray, Administrator for Washington County; Sarah Sprecher, Assistant County Administrator for Washington County; Sam Devaram, Washington County Counselor for SBTDC; Julie Pippel, Director for the Department of Environmental Management for Washington County; Tabitha Porterfield, Marketing Specialist for Washington County Public Relations and Community Affairs; Washington County Department of Business Development staff Carmen Harbaugh, Bob Mandley, and Linda Spence.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Dan Pheil. Mr. Pheil welcomed and introduced Wade Watson of Volvo Group as the newest EDC board member. Mr. Watson is serving an unexpired At Large term and brings his expertise in manufacturing to the membership.

Approval of the Order of Business – Paul Crampton made a motion to approve the Order of Business for January 9, 2014. The motion was seconded by Stu Mullendore and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Pete Thomas motioned to approve the meeting minutes of November 14, 2013 as presented, the motion was seconded by Bob Jeffers and approved unanimously.

Elected Officials' Comments – Commissioner McKinley noted the Herald-Mail announced they would discontinue their "Mail Call" column, and replace it with a "Feedback" column however readers will no longer be offered anonymity. The newspaper aspires to bring out a more positive experience for its readership. Council Member Munson reported the Hagerstown City Council appears to favor moving forward in requiring City landlords to enter into an Anti-Crime agreement with potential tenants.

Executive Committee – Dan Pheil reported members discussed policy and procedures in reporting on matters during meetings in order to avoid potential conflict of interest.

Ag Marketing Advisory Committee – Nothing to report.

City Center Committee – Ed Lough informed members the committee identified six (6) key issues they will concentrate efforts on; 1) construction of a parking deck off of Antietam Street, 2) extend the Maryland Theatre facility out to the sidewalk, 3) support the transformation of the former Barnwood Books property, 4) expansion of the University System of Maryland – Hagerstown, 5) support the purchase of the building located between the Barbara Ingram School of the Arts and the Maryland Theatre for possible school expansion, and 6) support the City of Hagerstown in achieving Main Street status. In addition, Mr. Lough noted he would also like to support the possibility of locating a traditional or culinary arts school in City Center. Council Member Munson felt these goals would be something the City Council could support.

Infrastructure and Site Development Committee – Paul Crampton announced the next meeting will be held on February 5, in which the committee’s future direction would be discussed.

Marketing & Public Relations Committee – Nothing to report.

Small Business Development Committee – Nothing to report.

Workforce Development Committee – Bob Jeffers announced he recently attended a Workforce Development Roundtable meeting hosted by the Technology Council of Maryland. The meeting served as a forum to discuss key best practices across the region and to develop a competitive workforce including training, recruitment, diversity and inclusion programs, internships, higher education, and employer/education partnerships. He explained Montgomery County College, Community College of Baltimore and HCC have been awarded \$25,000 jointly to develop an EARN Grant application. Vickie Swink mentioned the joint award was done to create a cohesive concept among the three entities with similar ideas for moving forward. Deadline to submit application is the end of March. Mr. Jeffers noted there is \$4M available state-wide for this year’s EARN program. Pete Thomas stated 68 proposals were received and HCC’s request was one of 29 to receive funding. Stu Mullendore called for more partnership with Ms. Swink and the Department of Business Development to increase opportunities for Washington County. Mr. Jeffers stated he would work with the county’s Public Relations department to develop a Recruitment Fair. Dan Pheil and Wade Watson commented on a “Work Keys” program to help students receive basic certification in math, reading, reading comprehension, advance teamwork, etc.

Celebration of Business Taskforce – Hugh Breslin reported more than \$11,000 has been committed from sponsors for this year’s event. A potential speaker has been identified as well as several alternatives. We have re-worked the anniversary list to include key anniversaries or “Hallmark” dates rather than traditional anniversaries and more than 45 companies will be honored. We are in negotiations with Fountain Head Country Club (FHCC) on pricing, and other plans are moving forward. As a reminder, the *Celebration of Business* event is scheduled to be held on April 15, 2014.

Old Business – Sarah Sprecher explained approximately 10 resumes were received for the position of Business Development Director. She and Greg Murray anticipate interviewing 5 candidates in the coming weeks.

New Business – Julie Pippel announced the Maryland Department of the Environment has provided funding to Washington County to hold another tire recycling day in the February/March timeframe. Greg Murray noted this program has a big impact on the agriculture community. The MD Farm Bureau has agreed to handle all advertising and Ms. Pippel will work with Leslie Hart to ensure the agricultural community is aware they have another opportunity to participate. Greg Snook distributed a copy of the “History of Hagerstown Community College” book, dating from 1946 through 2012. He noted the college is exploring the possibility of offering a Cyber Security program and is looking at leads from the Government Services Administration. The college is also working with the Board of Education in developing college courses for students working their way to an Associate Degree by the time they complete high school. Ms. Sprecher reported Leadership Washington County is providing tuition assistance for small businesses that apply by March to their upcoming program and asked members to help spread the word.

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 Ed Lough. Hearing no discussion the motion to go into Closed Session was approved by unanimous vote.

Open Session – On a motion made by Stu Mullendore to return to Open Session and seconded by Ed Lough, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Jef Bohn, Hugh Breslin, Paul

Crampton, Ryan Daughtridge, Jill Estavillo, Bob Jeffers, Ed Lough, Bill McKinley, Sandy Mehalko, Stuart Mullendore, Donald Munson, Greg Murray, Dan Pheil, Tabitha Porterfield, Julie Rohm, Greg Snook, Sarah Sprecher, Vickie Swink, Pete Thomas, Wade Watson, Carmen Harbaugh, Bob Mandley and Linda Spence.

Adjournment – Stu Mullendore 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 for Washington County
Department of Business Development and
Recording Clerk for the EDC