



Washington County Economic Development Commission Board
Annual Meeting
June 11, 2015

The annual 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), Julie Rohm (Vice Chair), Ed Lough (Secretary), Jef Bohn, Paul Crampton, Ryan Daughtridge, Bob Jeffers, Michael Reyka, Janet Stiles Fulton, and Pete Thomas. James Herbert was excused from the meeting.

Ex-Officio members attending were Terry Baker, Commissioner for Washington County; Don Munson, Council Member for the City of Hagerstown; Greg Snook, President of the Hagerstown/Washington County Industrial Foundation, Inc. Not present were Commissioners John Barr and LeRoy Myers, and Council Member Kristen Aleshire.

County staff in attendance included Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Kassie Lewis, and Linda Spence of the Department of Business Development; Jeff Cline, County Commissioner; Greg Murray and Sarah Sprecher of County Administration; and Aaron Stoner and Tabitha Porterfield of the Department of Public Relations and Community Affairs.

Others in attendance were Scott Nicewarner and Andrew Sargent of the City of Hagerstown.

Call to Order – The annual meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission Board was called to order by Chair Hugh Breslin. Mr. Breslin welcomed Michael Reyka of Meritus Medical Center as a newly appointed member of the Washington County Economic Development Commission Board. Mr. Reyka gave a brief overview of his background and experiences stating he looks forward to his service on the board. Mr. Breslin also welcomed Scott Nicewarner who was recently named acting director for the City of Hagerstown’s Community and Economic Development Department.

Approval of the Agenda – Jef Bohn made a motion to approve the Agenda for June 11, 2015 the motion was seconded by Pete Thomas and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Pete Thomas motioned to approve the meeting minutes of May 14, 2015 as presented, the motion was seconded by Bob Jeffers and approved by unanimous vote.

Elected Officials’ Comments – Commissioners Baker and Cline welcomed Mr. Reyka to the board. Council Member Munson reported City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman’s last day in office is June 12 and his replacement, Valerie Means will begin her position on June 15. He commented that the former Sears building at the Longmeadow Shopping Center recently passed zoning to allow for 2nd floor office space and 1st floor retail sales space, and that a new Class “A” office building will be constructed on North Potomac Street across from the University District Parking Deck.

Director’s Report – Kassie Lewis explained more than 3,200 flyers were mailed inside the County’s water bills during Phase I of the *My Biz Idea* campaign. The campaign is designed to reach fledgling home businesses and encourage them to take the next step(s) to grow their business. Flyers directed entrepreneurs to a survey, which were then followed up with a personal phone call by Ms. Lewis, and then steered toward resources provided by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). To date, 11 entrepreneurs have been served. The DBD will continue mailings through the county’s water billing systems and expand its reach to larger audiences through other avenues in the future.

Executive Committee – Hugh Breslin announced the proposed Slate of Officers for the coming fiscal year is Hugh Breslin, Chair; Julie Rohm, Vice Chair; and Ed Lough, Secretary. *On a motion made by Paul Crampton, seconded by Pete Thomas, the proposed Slate of Officers was unanimously approved as proposed. Ed Lough made a motion to nominate Jef Bohn and Paul Crampton to round out the remainder of the Executive*

Committee members. The motion was seconded by Janet Stiles Fulton. On proper motion and vote, the motion was carried. Mr. Breslin noted the BCC will discuss re-appointment of Jim Herbert and Janet Stiles Fulton to the EDC Board in Closed Session on June 16. He reported the Executive Committee will review a list of potential candidates to fill the At Large (manufacturing skilled) vacancy on the EDC Board and pose its recommendations during the July board meeting. Recent applicants under consideration as of this date are Christine Baeth of Faist Greentek, PCTEL, Inc., Robert Garver formerly of DBED and retired Fairchild worker; Andrew Loble of Hagerstown Kitchens, John Louderback of JLG Industries and Outpost Enterprises, Joshua Martin of Volvo Group Trucks, Nathaniel Moore of Aerotek, John Williams of Jamison Door, and Edward Wurmb of Mid Maryland Dairy Veterinarians. Hugh Breslin stated a list of EDC Board meeting dates were distributed for review and approval. *Janet Stiles Fulton made a motion to approve the meeting dates as presented for the coming fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Pete Thomas and passed unanimously.* Mr. Breslin mentioned the EDC Board Committee sign-up sheet is being circulated and encouraged members to choose one that interests them.

City Center Committee – Ryan Daughtridge reported committee members felt the best approach to support the City’s economic development efforts was to partner with them on one or more *Main Street Program* committees. Hugh Breslin announced Jill Frick is working with county staff to schedule a meeting with the Mayor and Council, Board of County Commissioners, and EDC Executive and City Center committee members. Greg Murray favors postponing the meeting until the new City Administrator Valerie Means has had time to acclimate herself in her new position to which members agreed.

Education and Workforce Development Committee – Bob Jeffers stated that he and Pete Thomas recently met with Clayton Wilcox, Superintendent of Washington County Public Schools. They discussed ways in which the EDC and school system could partner in meeting future education and workforce needs, e.g., an industry-specific visitation program for students, a program for small business leaders to meet with teachers and guidance counselors to address viable alternatives to college, and a guarantee for businesses who hire students who do not meet the businesses’ need. A suggestion was made to consider placement of a WCPS representative on the EDC Board, and the process by which ex-officio members are appointed was also discussed.

Marketing and Communications Committee – Julie Rohm had to excuse herself from the meeting early but wanted members to know that a July meeting is pending and welcomed new members.

Old Business – A discussion originating in *Closed Session* was moved to *Old Business* in accordance with the *Sunshine Laws* requiring openness in government. Kassie Lewis presented a finding of financial incentives provided for economic development projects in states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Noting Maryland does not have the resources available to financially match incentives doled out by Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Other aspects of project location qualifiers include infrastructure, education, land/facility products, etc. Overall Maryland struggles to be competitive and as a County we need to lobby Annapolis for support to be successful in closing economic development projects. Greg Snook commented it is also difficult when internal issues arise that inhibits project success such as establishing water and sewer service. Ryan Daughtridge suggested organizing a Water Summit between the City of Hagerstown, Washington County, and the State of Maryland to work towards a resolution. Greg Murray explained joint meetings have been held several times in the past and the issue remains.

New Business – There was not any *New Business* to report at this time.

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; or any personnel matters in accordance with the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. *The motion was seconded by Paul Crampton. Hearing no discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Open Session – On a motion made by Ed Lough to return to Open Session and seconded by Bob Jeffers, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Terry Baker, Jef Bohn, Hugh Breslin, Paul Crampton, Ryan Daughtridge, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Bob Jeffers, Kassie Lewis, Ed Lough, Don Munson, Greg Murray, Tabitha Porterfield, Michael Reyka, Greg Snook, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, Janet Stiles Fulton, Aaron Stoner, Pete Thomas.

Adjournment – Bob Jeffers 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