



County Administration Building
100 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 2001
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Regular Commission Meeting ~ April 12, 2018

The regular meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission (EDC) was held at 100 West Washington Street, Suite 2001. The following members were present: Julie Rohm (Chair), Gary Bockrath (Vice Chair), Hugh Breslin, Mike Fitzgerald, James Herbert, Andrew Lobley, Ed Lough, Joshua Martin, Theresa Shank, Donnie Stotemyer, and Randy Thompson. Ex-Officio members in attendance were Terry Baker, John Barr, Wayne Keefer, Emily Keller, Debora Gilbert, and Jill Thompson. Excused absences included Michael Reyka (Secretary). Not present were LeRoy Myers and Robert Bruchey.

County staff in attendance were Danielle Crabb, Rich Eichelberger, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Kassie Lewis, Lauren Pogue, Rob Slocum, and Linda Spence. Also in attendance were Danelle Hayer, Herb Melrath, Sheriff Douglas Mullendore, Andrew Sargent, Boyd Michael, and Dr. Peggy Pugh.

Call to Order – Julie Rohm called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda – Randy Thompson motioned to approve the April 12, 2018 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Lough. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of the Minutes – On a motion made by Gary Bockrath and seconded by Jim Herbert, the meeting minutes of March 8, 2018 were approved unanimously.

Washington County Public Schools – Boyd Michael and Peggy Pugh of the Washington County Public Schools provided an overview of the programs and projects the school system is undertaking. They discussed pre-kindergarten expansion, Urban Improvement Project, Youth Apprenticeship Program, Computational Thinking, New and Expanded High-Value, Technology-Related Career Paths, and areas of Economic Development Commission Assistance.

Executive Committee – Deborah Gilbert, Executive Director of the Western MD Consortium was introduced as the newest ex-officio member on the EDC. Three At Large members have terms expiring June 30, 2018. They have expressed interest to be reappointed and are eligible to serve. Two additional candidates must be submitted along with each reappointment request. *Hugh Breslin motioned to reappoint Joshua Martin to a second, three-year term. The two additional candidates to be considered for this appointment are Thomas Dahbura and Holly Combs. Ed Lough seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Gary Bockrath made a motion to reappoint James Herbert to a second, three-year term. Two additional candidates to be considered for this appointment are Sam Cool and Curt Pendleton. Hugh Breslin seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was approved. Julie Rohm motioned to reappoint Randy Thompson to a first, three-year term along with two potential candidates John Heizer and Brittany Whiteside. Joshua Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.* Mr. Bockrath agreed to develop a list of questions to be used as a basis for discussion with MEDA Past Presidents on May 17. Feedback on the content of the content of the questions is due by April 23. The Partnership and the Media & Marketing Work Teams have been identified. Team work should be completed by the end of July. Kassie Lewis acknowledged Katie Yoder of the County's Department of Public Relations and Marketing for creating a "Manufacturing PROUD" advertisement to be used in Business Xpansion Journal and marketing piece for the MEDA Annual Conference. Members were encouraged to reach out to Julie Rohm or Gary Bockrath if they have an interest in serving on the Executive Committee and/or on the Slate of Officers for the upcoming fiscal year.

Reports in Brief – Ed Lough provided an update from the Chamber of Commerce regarding recently held events and upcoming events such as the Chamber’s 100th Anniversary celebration on election forums in October. Julie Rohm commented on the economic impact of tourism for Washington County and noted the *Amateur Road National Championship* will be held in Washington County July 26-29. Hugh Breslin provided an update for the *On Track Program* and *Career Exploration Day* for 7th grade students on June 6. Donnie Stotelmyer announced the Highway User Revenue funds are to be restored.

Elected Officials’ Comments – Commissioner Baker encouraged EDC members to participate in the meetings with the Cascade Town Center development. Rob Slocum noted meetings are held monthly. Mike Fitzgerald volunteered to serve on the Cascade Town Centre meetings as an EDC representative. Commissioner Keefer is happy to provide members of the EDC with a stipend to participate in economic development networking and outreach efforts to compliment economic development initiatives for Washington County. City Council Member Emily Keller reported September will be known as “Purple” month in recognition of those who have suffered from opioid addiction and those who are in recovery. There will be a month long planned education series.

Closed Session – *Josh Martin 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.*

Open Session – *On a motion made by Gary Bockrath to return to Open Session and seconded by Donnie Stotelmyer, the motion was unanimously approved.* Present during Closed Session were Gary Bockrath, Hugh Breslin, Danielle Crabb, Mike Fitzgerald, Deb Gilbert, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Danelle Hayer, Jim Herbert, Kassie Lewis, Andrew Loble, Ed Lough, Josh Martin, Lauren Pogue, Julie Rohm, Andrew Sargent, Theresa Shank, Rob Slocum, Susan Small, Linda Spence, Donnie Stotelmyer, Jill Thompson, and Randy Thompson.

New Business – Gary Bockrath noted he is now representing the EDC on the Ft. Detrick Alliance, which he announced is a “chamber-like” organization for the Fort and approximately 40 percent of their workforce reside in Washington County. Rob Slocum announced Comptroller Peter Franchot is scheduled to meet with the Board of County Commissioners on April 20.

Old Business – There was no Old Business to report.

Adjournment – *Julie Rohm made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mike Fitzgerald. Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.*

Linda Spence,
Recording Clerk for the Washington County Economic
Development Commission