



TALBOT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

215 Bay Street, Suite #5 | EASTON, MARYLAND 21601 | (P) 410-770-8058 (F) 410-770-8059

Talbot County Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes for Thursday, May 4, 2017

Members Present: Craig Wanner, Ted Bautz, Scott Beatty, Jacqueline Wilson, Dr. Clay Railey, Ron Engle, Jean Weisman, Andrea Lev,

Ex Officio Members Present: Chairman, Timothy G. Jones, Shannon Dill, Jennifer Williams, Al Silverstein, Terenda Thomas, Margaret Enloe, Cassandra Vanhooser

Members Excused: Peter Dunbar, Gerald O'Mara, Mike Henry, Walter Chase

Staff Present: Sam Shoge and Ryan Snow

Attendees: Andrew Hollis, Scott Warner, Debbie Bowden

Call to Order: Chairman Jones called the meeting to order, with a quorum, at 9:15 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting were presented. A motion was presented and carried unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Enterprise Zone Application Update: Mr. Bautz stated the County would hold a public hearing on the Enterprise Zone Resolution on May 23, 2017 and the town of Easton approved the resolution. He further stated that a modification of the Enterprise Zone was being made and that the properties north of Bay Street will be for a future Enterprise Zone designation. Mr. Bautz also stated that the initial application will focus primarily on the Port Street corridor, the hospital, and areas near Bay Street. It was reported that the Council held a public hearing at which some of the members were concerned about the size of the Zone and the tax credit. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) has decided to wait until the support needed for the project is garnered so the County along with the Town can move forward with this venture.

Name Change: Mr. Shoge shared the suggested names of the building that he received from the Commission. The suggestions included: "The Talbot County Regional Center," "The Manufacturing Trade Center," and "The Talbot Innovation and Trade Center." Mr. Craig Wanner, a tenant of the subject building, suggested that the tenants occupying the building in question be given the opportunity to voice their suggestions as well. Angie stated that any name suggested for the building needs to represent the community's understanding of the purpose of the facility. In response to a query, Mr. Shoge identified the current tenants in the building. He further stated that several organizations have expressed interest in using the facility for storage and warehousing. Mr. Shoge indicated that he would send out a survey with the suggested names to the EDC on which to vote. The selected name will then be forwarded to the County Council for approval and adoption. The County Council had no suggestions for the name change. Clarification was given about the current name of the field formerly known as the Black and Decker Field. Mr. Shoge stated that the YMCA is currently using the grounds and he surmised



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that the organization has already given it a name. It was reported that the name of the facility is written on the banner that is posted on the premises.

Business Appreciation Breakfast: Mr. Ryan Snow reported that the breakfast was successful; a total of 210 guests were in attendance. Articles about the Economic Development Commission, and the award winners at the breakfast were displayed in the local newspaper. Mr. Snow also informed the EDC that an impressive article about the event was posted on the Lieutenant Governor's Facebook page, and a small portion on Governor Hogan's about Talbot County's EDC, awards, and businesses. Mr. Snow also stated that Talbot County received much publicity as a result of a small group from the Commission visiting Fresh Start, and The Whalen Company with the Lieutenant Governor; the group also had lunch together. Several positive comments were made about the breakfast including suggestions for improvements. Mr. Snow stated that discussions about improving next year's breakfast have already begun. He distributed copies of the Profit and Loss report from the event at today's meeting; a net loss of \$765.00 was reported.

Reminders: Mr. Jones reminded the group that Monday, May 8, 2017 would be their last listening session and expressed appreciation for everyone's participation in all the events including those that attend the Tilghman Island session. He verbalized that today's meeting had, historically, the largest attendance. Mr. Jones also mentioned that further discussions on the development of the EDC department will continue at the next meeting in June.

Committee Reports: A meeting was not held for the Business Environment Committee.

The County Manager Report: Mr. Hollis reported that the Council introduced the Budget and a public hearing was held on Tuesday during the day, and Tuesday night; the night session lasted less than an hour. He further stated that the Council will vote by the end of this month on the Budget. He also informed the group that a public work session will be held this afternoon. Mr. Hollis stated that the Council will have a public hearing on the Enterprise Zone Resolution later this month. He saw this as a positive move since Talbot County is the only county on the shore without such a designation.

Advertising Talbot County Jobs: Several comments were made about the advertising of Talbot County Jobs. It was reported that the perception has been that there is a lack of jobs in Talbot County, which reportedly is not so. Ms. Terenda Thomas, Administrator of the Maryland Workforce Development on the Eastern Shore, detailed the different avenues that DLLR uses to attract job seekers to the County. The concern of not having a single repository of Talbot County jobs was verbalized at today's meeting and the use of Craig's List as a tool for job advertising was also discussed. Ms. Thomas stated that the Maryland Workforce Exchange website employs Spider technology which allows job seekers to access job postings from other sources including Craig's List. At today's meeting,



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information about an upcoming job fair at Chesapeake College in November was given. The job fair is designed to promote jobs and careers that are available here on the Eastern Shore. Mr. Jones commented that when he first joined the Commission, they wanted to promote high tech jobs. But he believes that the county needs to promote all jobs, not just high tech positions. Our county is made up of residents that live in all income spectrums. Mr. Beatty stated Shore Bancshares hosted 22 interns in the last few months and none of them believed there was an adequate number of well paying jobs on the Shore. Ms. Enloe stated teenagers don't think there are decent jobs available here when they graduate. Mr. Silverstein said that you need to start with the elementary school students and make them aware of different jobs, different organizations and opportunities. He also mentioned organizations such as the Rotary and the Chamber have been working on this initiative. A suggestion was made to get into the colleges such as Washington College, Salisbury University, and UMES to get the word out about jobs that are available on the Eastern Shore.

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.